

Page 14  
n, page 15  
lian  
e slip  
Leeds  
pse of  
goal

Tuesday February 13 1996

Abu Dhabi D 0.50	Hong Kong HK 2.25	Poland P 7.00
Algeria L 2.00	Indonesia I 2.00	Portugal P 2.50
Australia AU 2.00	Iran IR 1.00	Portugal E 2.00
Austria AU 2.00	Italy IT 1.00	Romania R 2.00
Belgium B 2.00	Japan J 1.00	Russia RU 2.00
Canada C 1.00	Jordan J 1.00	Slovakia S 2.00
Czechia CZ 1.00	Korea K 1.00	Slovenia SL 2.00
Cyprus C 1.00	Latvia L 1.00	Spain S 2.25
Dominican Republic DR 1.00	Lebanon L 1.00	Sweden S 1.00
Egypt E 1.00	Lithuania LT 1.00	Switzerland SF 3
France F 1.00	Luxembourg LF 1.00	Taiwan T 1.00
Germany G 1.00	Malaysia M 1.00	Tanzania T 1.00
Greece G 1.00	Mexico M 1.00	Turkey T 1.00
India I 1.00	Morocco M 1.00	Ukraine U 2.00
Indonesia I 2.00	Norway N 1.00	USA US 2.75
Iran IR 1.00	Oman O 1.00	Zimbabwe Z 2.00

# The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 48,474

Ian Katz's 12-step programme

Universities in the year 2000

Adrian Searle on ice sculpture

## How to win an Oscar



## Education The Big Chill

## The Big Chill



Guardian 2 with European weather

Pages 10/11

Pages 8/9

Ministers draw up new scheme for forum aimed at winning support from Hume and Unionists

# British peace plan emerges

## Dublin seizes on new hope

Michael White  
David Sharrock  
and Patrick Wintour

**F**RAGILE hopes of rescuing the Northern Ireland peace process emerged from the rubble of the IRA's South Quay bomb last night as the British and Irish governments groped towards a compromise formula which could still lead to early election and all-party talks — including Sinn Fein representatives.

A conciliatory John Major won the virtually unanimous support of a sombre House of Commons for his renewed commitment to a constitutional settlement which he coupled with a challenge to Sinn Fein to denounce political violence.

But senior Dublin ministers enthusiastically seized on his simultaneous hint of fresh flexibility in the wake of their quarrel over the Mitchell Commission report. The Taoiseach, John Bruton, and his deputy, Dick Spring, both welcomed Mr Major's "clear and direct" link between elections and the elusive all-party negotiations.

There were strong pointers from both sides last night that the leaders of the Ulster Unionists and John Hume's Social Democratic and Labour Party had been privately signalling concessions last week designed to deliver an elected forum in the province in May, and rapid, time-limited negotiations within it almost immediately afterwards.

"The bomb came at a time when we were very close to a formula that would have enabled us to move forward very quickly," Mr Bruton told Channel 4 News last night.



A three-year-old boy is held aloft at a rally at Belfast City Hall yesterday at which thousands backed the continuation of the peace process

The Guardian has learned that British ministers are privately proposing a 90-strong forum, elected from 18 multi-member seats, from which small teams of negotiators would be drawn to negotiate in three parallel sessions. To avoid the sterile slanging matches of the past, there would be no plenary sessions, only a final vote among the elected parties on the final agreement, some time next summer.

The source of slender opti-

mism — reinforced by IRA indication from Dublin that the bomb was a one-off gesture of frustration — stems from British claims that the Unionists will not seek further delay by demanding "talks about talks" in an elected forum.

Despite the personal Commons initiative yesterday by the SDLP's Mr Hume — he urged an instant referendum on both sides of the Irish border to reject violence and endorse all-party talks — minis-

ters and the Labour Opposition are convinced he is edging towards accepting elections.

There was even talk of fitting in Dublin's own formula for breaking the deadlock — high-pressure, Russian-style "proximity talks" between the parties. "They could be followed very quickly by elections," Dublin sources say.

According to British ministerial sources, the new body would give the two governments effective vetos over

those discussions in which they are involved — all of them in Britain's case; all but the internal "strand" talks about Northern Ireland's internal settlement in Dublin's.

Britain's blueprint, which has been shown to Mr Hume and his Unionist counterpart, David Trimble, would be a test of the democratic mandate of the parties, but the size of negotiating delegations would not automatically reflect their electoral strength.

Mr Major made plain, as Mr Bruton did at the weekend, that he will not talk to Sinn Fein until the ceasefire is restored, though civil servants may talk to local Sinn Fein politicians.

Mr Major, pledging himself to press for elections, told MPs: "Others have ideas too, including the Irish government. Our minds are not closed. Nor, I know are theirs."

He and Mr Bruton have talked twice since Friday

night's bombing and are expected to meet in London next week.

Last night Sinn Fein's Martin McGuinness said: "It is going to be very, very difficult indeed" to get another ceasefire.



On other pages

□ In Eilish McCabe's home, they don't have much time for the institutions of the crown. Yesterday, their front room was dark and tense as they sat in silence listening to John Major's speech. They were convinced it would decide the future of Northern Ireland. Maggie O'Kane, page 3

□ At the last, Mr Major ran away from his own logic. Instead of assembling a critical mass of British politicians behind a process that posed no genuine threat to the Unionist constituency, he let the Unionists draw their line in the sand. Hugo Young, page 9

□ In Mid-Ulster, where loyalism is at its most hard-line, paramilitaries were not surprised by last Friday's turn of events. "The republican movement's political leaders have failed to educate their own followers about the need for peaceful, democratic methods." David Sharrock, page 8

□ People in a democracy, Mr Major said, are not "passive spectators", and have a right to make their views plain. (This is, perhaps, not the time to raise the subject of railway privatisation.) Simon Hoggart, page 2

## Blunders over maths testing

John Carvel  
Education Editor

**G**OVERNMENT embarrassment at the failure of more than half the nation's 11-year-olds to reach the expected standard in maths was compounded yesterday when it emerged that officials got the sums wrong by double counting tens of thousands of children who did not make the grade in their written tests.

According to Peter Coles, chief education officer of Hampshire, the mistake could have distorted the figures by as much as 2 per cent — enough to tilt the balance to suggest there were more failures than successes.

He blamed "stupid and extraordinary errors" on a system for collating the results designed by John Patten, the former Education Secretary, who gave the work to the GCE examination boards because he did not trust the local authorities to produce honest figures.

If teachers thought 11-year-olds might fail to reach the target level 4 in the maths test, they were allowed to put them through a series of less

exacting tasks to establish what lower attainment level they had reached. Test results at the examination boards were then added to task results compiled by the schools, thereby double-counting the unfortunate children who did not make level 4 by either yardstick.

"If the schools and examination boards had followed the correct procedures, there should not have been any double counting," said a spokeswoman for the curriculum authority.

"We followed the system designed by the Department for Education and Employment. It was not fallible and there was no way of knowing whether there was double counting," said George Turnbull, spokesman for the Associated Examining Board.

The curriculum and examinations experts accepted yesterday that there were flaws in the 1995 results, an announced earlier this month.

Mr Coles said other local authorities were contacted through a network of council statisticians revealing a catalogue of bizarre errors. One Bradford school was marked as if it had 312 children aged 11, when it had only 132.

## NHS set to fund surrogate birth

Chris Millill  
Medical Correspondent

**T**HE first birth to a surrogate mother funded by the NHS could follow discussions between a health authority and a test tube baby clinic over the help to be given to an infertile couple.

Previous surrogacy arrangements — where a woman bears a child for an infertile couple — have been private. It is not yet known whether the health authority would restrict funding to in vitro fertilisation treatment, or if it would pay the expenses of the surrogate mother.

John Parsons, head of the Assisted Conception Unit at King's College Hospital, south London, yesterday revealed that his clinic had been told by a health authority that it would meet the cost of a surrogate pregnancy, although detailed discussions were continuing.

Mr Parsons declined to give details of the couple who wanted the baby or the prospective surrogate mother. He also refused to identify the health authority, although it is believed to be in the south of the country.

The treatment involves taking eggs and sperm from the would-be parents, mixing them in a laboratory and im-

planting them in the surrogate mother. IVF costs about £2,000 per course of treatment.

Expenses for a surrogate mother would normally include loss of earnings, travel costs and clothing. Most surrogate mothers receive between £7,000 and £10,000.

The announcement came as the British Medical Association issued revised guidance to doctors, saying they should help patients involved in surrogate pregnancies, as counselling about the possible pitfalls would lessen the chances of arrangements going wrong.

Mr Parsons said he believed that surrogate pregnancies should be available

on the NHS as a last resort for infertile couples.

His unit received four or five requests a year for IVF treatment for surrogate pregnancies. Each case was decided by the hospital's ethics committee, after the couple and the surrogate mother had undergone psychological assessment and counselling.

Tim Hedgley, chairman of the fertility pressure group, said last night: "I think it is very good news. It is very forward thinking of the health authority. The authority is paying to alleviate stress and suffering in an infertile couple."

BMA policy change, page 4

## Oklahoma bomb lawyer wants British neo-Nazis to testify

Ian Katz in New York

**A**LAWYER for Timothy McVeigh, the prime suspect in the Oklahoma City blast, has asked a judge to subpoena the rightwing British historian, David Irving, and two British neo-Nazis who he alleges may have information about the bombing.

In a move seen by many observers as an effort to muddy the waters around the case

against his client, attorney Stephen Jones said he wanted to call Mr Irving along with John Tyndall, leader of the British National Party, and Charles Sargent, the reputed leader of a British neo-fascist group called G18.

Mr Jones said he did not believe the three had any involvement in the attack but claimed they had links to US extremists who he suspected of taking part in the bombing conspiracy. "I'm not accusing

them of anything. I just want to find out what they know."

Mr Irving vehemently denies any involvement in or prior knowledge of the Oklahoma bombing. Contacted in Key West yesterday, he told the Guardian he was "very shocked and embarrassed to be dragged into something as unappetising as this."

Mr Irving, a Holocaust revisionist who claimed in 1982 to have discovered diaries of Joseph Goebbels in a Moscow

archive, said he was in Florida when the truck bomb exploded outside the Alfred P. Murrah federal building killing 169 people on April 19.

Mr Jones has promoted the theory that Mr McVeigh, aged 27, and his co-defendant, Terry Nichols, aged 40, may have been part of a conspiracy of neo-Nazis aimed at avenging the death of Richard Snell, a white supremacist executed in Arkansas on the day of the bombing.

## Blinking Hell

First the eyelids itch and swell up. Eventually they become so disfigured that the eyelashes turn inwards. Now every blink scratches the eyeball. Agonisingly slowly, agonisingly painfully, the victim goes blind.

This is trachoma. Six million people in the developing world are needlessly blind because of it. Millions of children in Africa and Asia are infected right now. Just £1.20 from you will help us treat someone in the early stages of trachoma with Tetracycline ointment. £5 will help the more advanced cases with an operation to turn back their ingrowing lashes — and save their sight.

Wouldn't you give a hundred or even a thousand times that if it were your eyes at stake?

Sight Savers International, Haywards Heath, RH16 3ZA

### DELIVERY GUARANTEED

My gift is  £12  £25  £50  Other £

Please make your cheque payable to Sight Savers International, or if you wish to pay by Access, Visa, Amex or CAF charity card, enter your card number in the boxes below.

Card expiry date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name Mr/Ms/Miss/Ms \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this coupon with your donation to Sight Savers International, FREEPOST, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 3ZA.

SIGHT SAVERS INTERNATIONAL Registered Charity Number: 207514

Inside News 2 Letters 8 Comment 9 Obituaries 10 Financial news 11

G2

Real Lives 4/5 Law 7 Arts 8/9 Education 10/11 Women 12/13

Quick Crossword 15 Cartoons 15 Radio 16 Television 16 Weather 16







'I am not in the business of slamming doors, but the people need to know where Sinn Fein stand, whether they are a front for the IRA or a party committed to the ballot, not the bullet'

John Major yesterday



John Major leaves Downing Street yesterday to address Parliament about the Government's response to the end of the IRA ceasefire

PHOTOGRAPH DAVID SILLITOE



'I think that one of the best ways forward now is to let the people speak clearly. Because if they do, neither the IRA nor anybody else will be able to ignore them'

John Hume yesterday

# Hume urges all-Irish referendum

## Commons

Blair backs PM and asks 'hard question' of how to regain peace momentum

Patrick Wintour, Chief Political Correspondent

JOHN Hume, the SDLP leader and chief architect of the ceasefire, yesterday surprised MPs by calling for a simultaneous referendum north and south of the Irish border to demonstrate the entire island's opposition to violence, so isolating the IRA. He made his proposal as John Major told the Commons that British ministers will hold no further talks with Sinn Fein until the ceasefire is restored. Mr Major said he would study Mr Hume's proposal. Discussing his general approach following the breakdown of the ceasefire, Mr Major said: "I am not in the business of slamming doors, but the British and Irish people need to know where Sinn Fein stand. They must decide whether they are a front for the IRA or a democratic political party committed to the ballot and not the bullet."

Insisting the peace process



Speakers in debate... John Hume (left) and John Taylor

John Hume called for a referendum in the north and south by the end of the month, asking people to say if they totally disapproved of violence and if they wanted all parties to start dialogue. He said: "I think that one of the best ways forward now is to let the people speak and let



them speak very clearly. Because if they do, neither the IRA or anybody else will be able to ignore them." Expressing support for Mr Major's approach, Labour leader Tony Blair urged: "The bombers should not gain concessions from the bomb, but neither should they be allowed to thwart peace. He said there had been much speculation about whether the IRA meant the bomb as a one-off or part of a more prolonged campaign. "For them it may be a matter of tactics. But for the victims, it has been a matter of life and death, and there can be nothing but the most profound contempt for those who will butcher wholly innocent people in the pursuit of any such strategy, whatever it is." "The question now is hard

but simple — how do we regain the momentum for peace without concessions to the men of war?"

Decommissioning weapons remained the obvious way to establish with confidence that Sinn Fein would accept exclusively peaceful methods in the future, but this had been ruled out by them, said Mr Blair.

A new electoral mechanism was an alternative. But if elections went ahead, they should not be a return to Stormont and should lead directly to substantive negotiations with decommissioning beginning in parallel, he said.

The Ulster Unionist deputy leader, John Taylor, said that the "inevitability" of another terrorist attack had been increasing because Sinn Fein had been "totally isolating itself."

He called for elections and said he would only go to Dublin if greater security was provided.

Ian Paisley, the Democratic Unionist leader, claimed the vehicle that blew up in the docklands had been prepared three weeks ago. "How could any democratically elected leader in this House be asked to sit down and negotiate with people who would be doing that while they were talking peace?"

The Liberal Democrat leader, Paddy Ashdown, claimed the attack was pre-meditated, and that Sinn Fein, by failing to condemn the attack, effectively condoned it.

## Going placidly amid diversions on road to peace



Simon Hoggart

THE Prime Minister pulled out a white handkerchief and started, perhaps a little nervously, to polish his glasses. It was an endearingly nerdy gesture, particularly from the man who, according to Sinn Fein and its apologists, is as much to blame for the bomb as the men who planted it.

Luckily there are only a handful of them in the House of Commons and for the most part they decided that this was a good day to keep quiet.

Mr Major said, quietly but precisely, that the elections (we are told that the outrageous suggestion that the people of Northern Ireland

should be allowed to vote for their own representatives was the proximate cause of the bombing) were still the best way to go ahead. "People in a democracy, he said, are not "passive spectators", and have a right to make their views plain. (This is, perhaps, not the time to raise the subject of railway privatisation, but we can return to that later.)

Mr Major's tone was finely judged. He was firm and unambiguous about how he means to proceed, yet his manner was open, conciliatory, almost placid. We could even be grateful for the timing of the bomb; the three days interval produced a certain calmness, so unlike the House of Commons when it has just been riled.

Mr Blair rose to reply. One is tempted to wonder why he should be so keen to have Mr Major's job when he sees what it involves. As always, he was careful to leave no hostages to fortune.

He pointed out that the Government had already stated that it had "no selfish interest" in Northern Ireland. (The phrase is "no selfish or

strategic interest". In case the IRA thinks the Empire is hanging on to fend off the marauding threat from the Canadian Navy or the Faroe Islands Marines.)

Tony "Von" Marlow shouted: "What about the UK?" Mr Marlow is from that curious group which would want to hang onto Northern Ireland even if its population voted to be annexed by Rockall. But to people like Mr Marlow, if we can't have India, why not County Tyrone?

Mr Major made the most important part of his statement in his reply. "I am not seeking today to erect barriers or to produce harsh words that will make it more difficult for those in Sinn Fein to do what needs to be done."

Then he added, I thought movingly: "We are not at the end of the road for peace. If we are pushed back, we will start again. If we are pushed back again, we will start again. If we are pushed back a third time, we will start again."

(Normally he would keep on: "If we are pushed back a 17th time...") but it was a measure of how he had gauged the mood that he knew exactly when to stop.)

John Hume was called, and we sensed a fretful anxiety. Mr

Hume could destroy everything. Instead he adopted a diversionary tactic, a diversion from his own opposition to elections. There should be a referendum in which people were asked first whether they unequivocally disapproved of violence, and second whether they supported all-party talks.

Whether there should be a question three — should the all-party talks include people who find violence rather appealing — he did not say. But as a diversionary tactic it succeeded very well.

The Rev Ian Paisley complained that the bombers had stolen their vehicle tax disc from one of his constituents. We gravely took this news on board.

Tony Benn finally found a circuitous way to blame John Major: he had tossed the Mitchell report aside and treated Dublin with contempt — or words to that effect.

The Prime Minister managed to keep his cool. He threw John Hume's words back at Mr Benn:

"Negotiations cannot take place with guns on the table, guns under the table, or guns outside the door."

Mr Hume lowered his head half a millimetre in agreement.

## Armed police patrols in anti-terrorist drive

### The hunt

Bomb scares and increased security cause problems across country

Duncan Campbell and Alex Bellor

THE Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police yesterday warned Londoners that they would have to be prepared for armed police patrols on the capital's streets as a result of the IRA's Docklands bomb.

Sir Paul Condon's warning came as detectives investigating the bomb announced that they had had an excellent response to calls for information about the low-loader lorry in which the bomb had been placed.

Sir Paul yesterday said that Londoners must face the possibility of further bomb attacks. He asked for their co-operation with the increased security on the streets. This will include additional armed patrols.

"You can help us by being millions of eyes and ears," he said. It was now necessary to return to the vigilance that had operated at the height of the bombing campaign. He asked those responsible for buildings or places of enter-

tainment to take particular precautions and to retain all security video film.

Detectives are already examining security video footage for clues to the identity of the bombers. They say they are hopeful of information because there is a large quantity of good quality film available.

The search at the bomb site was continuing yesterday and is not likely to be completed for a further two days. The response to calls for information about the lorry has been excellent, according to the anti-terrorist branch.

Security sources said that

suggestions that there were up to six IRA active service units on the mainland and that politicians might be the next target was highly speculative.

Throughout Britain, police forces were reinstating security measures which had been relaxed in the last 17 months and issuing warnings to the public. In London, the additional security and bomb scares brought traffic to a standstill in some areas.

Armed police patrols have also been introduced around the Channel Tunnel entrance in Folkestone, Kent. Meanwhile, as workers were returning to their offices in London's Docklands yesterday, loss adjusters predicted that the five buildings nearest the blast would have to be demolished.

Police had still cordoned off a large section at South Quay containing many offices. Several firms told staff not to come in for a week and many have already been forced to relocate their premises.

Rob Turner, of the Building Group, said that most of its 160 workers were spending yesterday moving into other premises on the Isle of Dogs. The Docklands Light Railway was not running beyond Canary Wharf station, although its managing director, Malcolm Hutchinson, said service may resume later in the week.

John Gale, a loss adjuster, said the cost of the bomb could easily reach £150 million.

THE building is still standing but the force of the blast brought down power cables as thick as a man's wrist and ducting you could have crawled along. Where the presses did not break their fall, the cables crashed 50 feet to the floor. The presses, as tall as a house,



Scene of devastation at the Guardian's Isle of Dogs print plant

## Where it's not fit to print, whatever the news

Nick Passmore, the Guardian's production editor, was yesterday allowed access to the newspaper's Isle of Dogs print plant, which is close to the scene of last Friday's bombing and suffered severe damage. Here he describes what he found.

THE building is still standing but the force of the blast brought down power cables as thick as a man's wrist and ducting you could have crawled along. Where the presses did not break their fall, the cables crashed 50 feet to the floor. The presses, as tall as a house,

were doused with water by the sprinkler system and exposed to the elements by the opening of the automatic smoke vents.

Suspended ceilings were sucked down in offices and plant rooms, bringing with them lights and air-conditioning conduits. Now, soggy reels of newsprint, weighing a ton each even when dry, are swelling and bursting, threatening to topple the reels above them into the river of water and ink snaking across the floor.

In the wire room, the red lights of the battery-backed telecommunications ma-

chines are still glowing but the sensitive and expensive equipment connected to them is covered in water. Next door, the plates making lines, where the pages, sent by facsimile machines, are turned into printing plates can hardly be seen under a coating of ceiling-tile porridge.

The police have begun making the place safe enough to get power reconnected and let the clearing-up process start, but the damage and disruption mean that only the vaguest of guesses can be made about when the paper could again be rolling off these presses.

The Open University logo

## Study for a BA or BSc degree.

To broaden your interests or develop your career the Open University offers over 150 courses you can choose from to build your own BA or BSc degree programme. They cover arts, science, social science, computing, technology, modern languages, mathematics, business management, education and health and social welfare. If you are over 18 and resident in the European Union, you're eligible. No previous qualifications are required.

THROUGH OU SUPPORTED OPEN LEARNING

Our proven method of teaching allows you to study wherever you live and in your own time. Specially written texts and audio/video materials are backed by counselling and personal tutorial support and the opportunity to work with other students. If you need help, some financial support may be available. Admissions are on a first-come first-served basis - so fill in the coupon or phone NOW.

Send for your free brochure on BA/BSc degrees NOW.

Send to: The Open University, PO Box 625, Milton Keynes, MK1 1TY. Please send me a copy of the Course, Diploma and BA/BSc Degree brochure.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ UDDBL Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Tel \_\_\_\_\_

OU Hotline (24 hours) 01908 378199 University education and training open to all adults.

Handwritten signature or text at the bottom of the page.



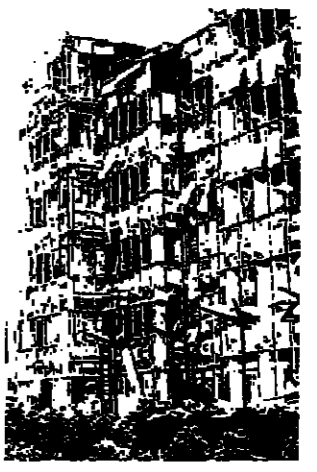


I think that one of the best ways forward now is to let the people speak clearly. Because if they do, neither the IRA nor anybody else will be able to ignore them

Eilish McCabe on past hopes



Eilish McCabe beside the memorial to her brother Aidan McAnespie, shot by a British soldier eight years ago on his way back from a Gaelic football match



If he calls for a clampdown on security and insists on elections that will be it for another 30 years... War, now he's calling it a war in Northern Ireland — that's a first

Paul McCabe listening to Mr Major

# Hanging on his every nuance

The shattered peace Maggie O'Kane reports

THE beige-and-brown floral curtains were drawn tightly across to keep the afternoon sun off the television and Eilish McCabe sat with her hands on her chin, banging on to John Major's every word as he addressed the House of Commons yesterday afternoon.

through as fast as they could. After 18 months of ceasefire the army garrison is still silhouetted against the hills that run down by the Gaelic football pitch to the river Blackwater that marks the 30-foot wide frontier between Northern Ireland and the Republic. Driving into Northern Ireland yesterday morning the changes were already apparent. A single army helicopter hovered overhead, and the Union Jacks were fluttering again in a loyalist housing estate just over the border.

The privates who killed him was charged with manslaughter but said his finger had slipped on the trigger. The case was dropped. McAnespie's killing had a profound effect on the Roman Catholics of south Tyrone. The army became the enemy to be feared. There was always tension, constant harassment, whispered threats.



claimed his way forward from the familiar lectern. "If he calls for a clampdown on security and insists on elections that will be it for another 30 years," he said.

kitchen and I heard him say it. It took my breath away but it didn't surprise me. Over the past five months she has grown more and more frustrated with the lack of progress. "I found it hard when the British government went on and on about how they wouldn't talk to the IRA until they handed in their guns. All I was saying was talk, talk, talk — anyway you can find peace. I didn't care what the preconditions were."

House of Commons strengthened. "They're all talking the same way. Major's not even throwing out the Mitchell report. Last month he rubbished it — now his attitude is as different as night and day."

# Call for end to visas for Sinn Fein

US view Martin Walker in Washington on what the Ulster Unionist leader told Clinton

THE Ulster Unionist leader, David Trimble, yesterday challenged President Clinton to prove that he condemned the IRA bombing by putting the controls back on US visas and fundraising for Sinn Fein, but the president showed no sign of cutting ties with Gerry Adams.

urged the US to back John Major's proposal for early elections to a body which could begin all-party talks. "Our view after Friday is that it's even more important to have elections, because you can't have the political process vetoed by terrorists," Mr Trimble said.

# Revenge strikes ruled out — for now

Loyalists Paramilitary leader says ceasefire will be kept as groups await developments

LOYALISTS will capture the moral high ground by not breaching their ceasefire in spite of the IRA, a key paramilitary leader said yesterday.

lands bombing, the Ulster Volunteer Force command structure had issued orders to its volunteers, the Mid-Ulster leader said. "The message was to do nothing, but await developments."


In Mid-Ulster, where loyalism is at its most hard-line, paramilitaries were not surprised by last Friday's turn of events, according to the senior member. "The republican movement's political leaders have failed to educate their own followers about the need for peaceful, democratic methods," he said.

governments a breathing space... But if the Government was seen to reward the IRA in some way, by leaning on the Unionist people, or if the IRA was to continue to wage war, then a return to violence is inevitable.

the leash in order to take out a leading loyalist. "By taking that route they would be seeking to share the blame for the return to violence, and I think that at that point, if it comes, we will lose it."


ston with a senior Sinn Fein member for the first time. Both parties have severed those links for the time being, David Adams, UDP spokesman said.

## Add a new dimension to your business.




£1,149 (£1,379.45 incl. delivery + VAT)


The Dell Dimension™ P75t PC package is the perfect tool for getting down to business. Pre-loaded and ready-to-run with Microsoft® Windows 95 and Office 95 Software, it makes everyday tasks at work that much easier to handle. And, as you'd expect from Dell, all the back up you need is a phone call away with Openline™ our Hardware Technical Support Service. Call us today on 01344 720000 to discover a new dimension in business solutions.



Designed for



- INTEL 75MHz PENTIUM® PROCESSOR • 8MB EDO RAM
- 3.5" DISKETTE DRIVE • 1GB HARD DRIVE • INTEGRATED 64-BIT PCI LOCAL BUS VIDEO WITH 1MB VIDEO MEMORY
- 15" COLOUR SVGA MONITOR • 4 PCI AND 3 ISA EXPANSION SLOTS (1 SHARED) • MID-SIZED DESKTOP CHASSIS • QUAD SPEED CD-ROM DRIVE • MICROSOFT OFFICE 95 • MICROSOFT WINDOWS 95 • DELL MOUSE/KEYBOARD



**01344 720000**

Between 9am and 9pm weekdays, 10am to 6pm Saturdays



Association allows help for childless couples as 'last resort' • 'Fortunate' woman tells of emotional reward and fulfilled ambition

# BMA rethink over surrogate mothers

Chris Millill  
Medical Correspondent

**S**URROGATE pregnancies are acceptable as a last resort for infertile couples when other fertility treatments have failed, the British Medical Association said yesterday in a change of policy.

The BMA said doctors should advise patients about surrogacy if appropriate, and infertile couples should feel they can discuss the subject with health professionals without fear of recrimination or judgement.

Fleur Fisher, head of the BMA ethics division, said: "Surrogacy is here to help infertile couples, and it is important that we recognise that this is an area of infertility management that we need to learn about. All parties need the best quality of clinical and counselling care that we can make available to them."

However, the BMA said surrogacy contracts could not be enforced in law, and that such arrangements were fraught with problems. But in most of cases it had looked at, the outcome had been positive.

The BMA originally advised doctors to have nothing to do with surrogacy, although later it told doctors they could help but that the two parties to the pregnancy should have as little contact as possible to lessen potential psychological problems.

The new advice, in a book for doctors and booklet for patients, says there are benefits from the surrogate mother

**'Surrogacy is here to help infertile couples, and it is important we recognise that this is an area we need to learn about. All parties need the best quality of clinical and counselling care we can provide'**

and would-be parents supporting each other, and extended discussions between the parties can help prevent future problems arising.

Dr Fisher said there was anecdotal evidence that the number of surrogacy births was increasing, as society became less judgmental, although no official figures were kept. The larger of the two voluntary agencies which set up surrogacy arrangements, COTS, estimates it has helped 150 pregnancies over the past four years, but other couples make their own arrangements.

Dr Fisher said that if DIY surrogacy was agreed on —

where the mother used her own eggs and sperm from the other woman's husband, there was often little medical involvement and both sides missed out on counselling.

Some women denied their pregnancy was surrogate, for fear that the child would be taken into care.

In other cases, where IVF clinics were involved, there was formal psychological assessment and counselling. "We want the same level of counselling and support as given by the IVF clinics to all people involved in surrogacy arrangements," she said.

The report backs the outlawing of commercial surrogacy but says it is reasonable that the surrogate mother receives expenses of £7,000 to £10,000.

The BMA says the voluntary agencies which set up surrogacy arrangements should be more closely monitored for the quality of advice they provided for couples, and that there needed to be more research into the effects of such births on the surrogate mothers, the parents and the children.

Ann Somerville, the BMA's adviser on ethics and the law, said there had been cases in which handicapped babies had been rejected by the would-be parents or when the surrogate mother had refused to hand over the child.

"The whole procedure is fraught with problems from beginning to end."

Changing conceptions of motherhood: the practice of surrogacy in Britain. British Medical Association, £5.95.



Deborah Brown with sons Nicholas (left) and Jordan. "The boys took my pregnancy in their stride. My eldest just said that it was a good thing to do" PHOTOGRAPH BY RICHARD WINTLE

# Host celebrates happy event of giving up baby

Angella Johnson

**T**WO weeks ago Deborah Brown gave birth to a beautiful boy after "a near perfect pregnancy." She then handed him to the childless couple for whom she had agreed to act as a surrogate mother.

"It was a very happy occasion. I was just the host surrogate. It was always their child. I just agreed to help them out by giving it a place to grow for nine months so there was no sadness."

It had taken four years of fertility treatment to fulfill her ambition to help others. "I have wanted to do this for a long time, ever since Kim Cotton became the first surrogate mother. I thought it was such an emotionally rewarding thing to do."

"I already had two boys (now aged five and 10) and did not plan to have any more, but really enjoyed the process of being pregnant. As I had a healthy body and no intention of using it for that purpose any more, I thought what better thing to do than put it at the disposal of others less fortunate."

single mother from Wiltshire, met the couple for the first time a year ago.

She was given drugs and to build up the lining of her womb for the pregnancy. Some 12 days after the transfer one of the embryos had taken.

"I cannot begin to tell you how excited I was. At no time during the pregnancy did I waver in my feelings that this was not really my child. By then the couple had become friends and we shared the experience as much as possible."

She had already prepared her own children and family for the birth. "I had told my eldest some time ago about this desire I had to help others. He just said that it was a good thing to do. He understood that the baby was not related, but might be part of our lives. The youngest was only told after I became pregnant but he also took it in his stride."

Her mother was initially less understanding. "I don't think she was too comfortable with the idea at first, but now she is so proud of what I've done." Her mother, who works part time in a supermarket, insisted that no money had been paid to her for having the baby.

"I don't really want to talk about money; it's a complex issue, because I don't think you can really pay someone to have a baby. But you can compensate them or pay expenses. "Oh yes, I would do it again."

# Record executive quits over pop charts 'hype'

Alex Bellis

**A**TOP record company executive has resigned from his position in the BPI, the industry body, after his label was implicated in the largest chart-rigging scandal for several years.

Andrew Cleary, managing director of Edel (UK) Records, said he was stepping down as the BPI's public relations chairman, but he denied being aware of his company trying to promote a single by mass-buying.

Edel was one of three companies alleged by the BPI to have "hyped" records by buying large numbers of them from shops to increase their chart positions.

Edel and Castle Communications have each been fined £30,000 by the industry, but no action has been taken against Lone This Records as it is not a BPI member. Only one of seven records

concerned made the Top 40 — The Good Life by New Power Generation, which reached number 29 last August.

The fines, following a 12-month investigation, are the first since 1991 when two labels were ordered to pay a total of £52,000. Since then it was thought the increasing computerisation of chart compilation had made them too difficult to rig.

The current BPI investigation centres around poster company Rock Box Promotions, of north London, where about 3,000 copies of the records were found. A BPI spokesman said its evidence included receipts from record shops, video recordings and help from CIN, which compiles the weekly charts.

CIN is fed information weekly from 3,500 record stores, and for the last decade has had increasingly sophisticated computer programmes to weed out any irregular sales patterns. It withdraws

data from up to 30 stores every week on suspicion of chart-rigging.

CIN chart director Catherine Pusey refused to say what happened in the current incident, but the most obvious give-aways are many records being sold consecutively from the same outlet, or a record's sales peaking mid-week.

She added that she is often called by retailers who believe something dubious is going on, such as the same person coming in every week to buy a stack of the same records and asking for a receipt.

Mr Cleary said yesterday that the BPI's policy of not allowing an appeal was unfair, and the fine was too large. The last time a record company of similar size was accused it was fined only £2,000. He said he would like to make a legal challenge to the BPI but had to consider the costs.

Rock Box Promotions refused to comment yesterday.

# OVERDRAFT CHARGES FAR TOO WEIGHTY?

	TOTAL ANNUAL CHARGE FOR £200 OVERDRAFT	APPROVED OVERDRAFT RATE APR	APPROVED MONTHLY OVERDRAFT FEE
ABBEE NATIONAL	£3.11	9.9%	£0
BARCLAYS	£65.78	19.2%	£5
LLOYDS	£101.84	19.4%	£8
MIDLAND	£88.88	16.0%	£7
NAT WEST	£113.70	18.9%	£9

On an authorised overdraft of £200, for 5 days each month for a year, some banks charge thirty times as much as Abbey National. So, if you want your overdraft charges to be pounds lighter, move your current account to Abbey National. What's more, we'll give you a completely free overdraft for 4 months when you switch.

Not only could you enjoy more credit interest than with other High Street banks, but you can also use our 24 hour telephone banking service, have access to over 8,500 cash machines and we won't charge for the simple things like duplicate statements or stopping cheques.

Switching your account couldn't be easier. Simply call into your local branch to find out more, or phone for our simple to follow information pack and video, that will take you through the whole process step by step. For your copy call us free on:

0800 375 375



Abbey National

The habit of a lifetime

WAKE UP TO FRESHER BANKING.

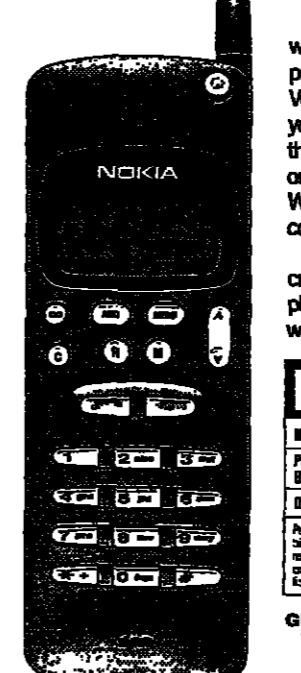
Rate correct at time of going to press. Comparison is based on interest-bearing current account. Minimum two cards and all overdrafts including the initial interest-free overdraft are subject to status and not available to persons under 18 years of age. Overdrafts are available on demand. Written quotations are available on request. Overdraft APR is 9.9% variable. Telephone banking is available only to Abbeylink and Multifunction card holders. Abbey National is the Bank of Scotland Group and The Habits of a Lifetime are trademarks of Abbey National plc, Abbey House, 100, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

# Nokia Digital Security. Cellphones Direct Prices!

LIMITED OFFER  
**£9.99**  
INC. VAT  
FREE CONNECTION TO VODAFONE Personal World

- NOKIA**  
GSM MODEL 2010.
- ◆ 99 name/number memory
  - ◆ 100 mins talk-time
  - ◆ 30 hrs standby-time
  - ◆ Complete with standard battery and rapid travel charger
  - ◆ Weight approx 320g

FREE IN-CAR ADAPTOR/CHARGER  
FREE SPARE BATTERY  
FREE LEATHER CASE  
TOGETHER WORTH OVER £75



Trust Cellphones Direct to make a world of difference to digital phone prices. With FREE connection to the Vodafone PersonalWorld Tariff, so you can use the phone throughout the UK, most of Europe and beyond on the GSM international network. With digital call clarity and absolute confidentiality.

Simply phone us with your credit card details to receive your phone plus valuable extras within 4 working days.

**FREE CONNECTION TO VODAFONE PERSONALWORLD**

Monthly Rental	£17.63 (£15 + VAT)
Peak Rate Calls	42p per min (35p + VAT)
Off Peak Calls	18p per min (15p + VAT)

International calls extra at £20.00 per min in UK, £25.00 per min in Europe, £30.00 per min in other world areas. All charges are subject to change without notice. All charges are subject to change without notice. All charges are subject to change without notice.

GUARANTEED PEACE OF MIND  
Your phone is covered by our 14 days no quibble money back promise.

Cellphones Direct

ORDER NOW FOR FREE DELIVERY IN 4 WORKING DAYS

**FREEPHONE 0500 000 888**

CREDIT CARD ORDERING HOTLINE WEEKDAYS 9AM TO 8PM WEEKENDS 9AM TO 6PM

PLEASE HAVE YOUR CREDIT CARD AND THIS ADVERTISEMENT READY WHEN YOU CALL AND QUOTE REF NOSE. MONEY BY THE SQUARE TO ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS. Offer subject to status and a standard minimum contract for each phone with Cellphones Direct Ltd, 185 Lower Richmond Road, Richmond upon Thames TW9 4LN. Full terms, conditions and details of this offer are available on request. © Copyright. Registered No. 2395222.

مكتبة الجليل

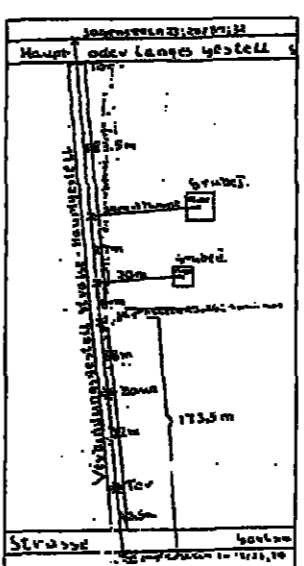
Silver and china goes on sale 50 years after being hidden from Russians in German forest. Owen Bowcott reports



Count Alexander zu Lynar-Redern in London yesterday to show off his family's 120-piece silver dinner service recovered after 50 years

Count's map kept secret of family's buried treasure

HUNDREDS of pieces of rare silver plate and Meissen china, buried more than 50 years ago in an east German forest to avoid advancing Russian troops, went on show in London yesterday. The precise location of the family treasure had been recorded by Count Alexander zu Lynar-Redern on a hand-drawn map which he had kept secret since the final days of the second world war. Then aged 16, the count was about to be drafted into the navy. Along with his widowed mother, Princess Victoria, their coachman, gamekeeper, and an estate worker, they dug a six-foot hole in the forest near the castle of Gorldorf, west of the River Oder. On April 20, 1945 - Hitler's birthday - they carried out 15 packing cases of china and silver and covered them with earth. The count and the family fled westwards, and the treasure remained hidden in what later became the German Democratic Republic. Last summer Count Alexander, now 67, hired an American treasure hunter, Gregory Mills, to locate the site. Stone markers used to record the position were still in place, and with metal detectors the fortune was uncovered in less than an hour. Yesterday the treasure went on show at Sotheby's in London, without a single piece missing - even though the packing cases had rotted away. The hoard is estimated to be worth £350,000, and includes a rare 120-piece Odol silver service dating from 1884, and Meissen china figures. The sale will be held in London and Geneva in May and June. "It was the first time I have been home since the war," Count zu Lynar-Redern said yesterday. "We could have been shot by the Nazis for burying it against orders, and the Russians were getting closer all the time. "When we found it again, it was wonderful. Everything else had gone. Our castle was burned down in 1945 and we only managed to take a few personal things and 20 of our horses to set up a stud near Kell after the war." The sale proceeds will be shared with the count's brother, Ernst William, and his three sisters, Marie, Margaret and Elizabeth. No relatives of the coachman, estate worker or gamekeeper could be traced, the count said. After the estate was seized by the Communists it became the private hunting ground of General Mielke, head of the Stasi, the GDR's secret service.



Digging up the treasure last year in the forest near Gorldorf, top; left, the count as he was in 1945 aged 16; and, right, the count's map of the treasure's location

Woman killed 'in drunken haze'

Soldier accused of manslaughter describes alcoholic life in army

Chris Drake in Larnaca

BRITISH soldier accused of killing a young Danish woman in Cyprus, portrayed himself to a court yesterday as an alcoholic, often too drunk for days on end to remember what was happening. Alan Ford, 27, of the Royal Greenjackets, told Larnaca assize court that his recollection of the night Louise Jensen, aged 23, of Hirtshals, died was badly marred. "Whatever happened is because I was very drunk. My thoughts, my actions, my behaviour - I had no control over them because of the amount of alcohol I had consumed."

Ford, from Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham, is one of three Royal Greenjackets accused of kidnapping, conspiring to rape and the manslaughter of Ms Jensen at a holiday resort in September, 1994. Her naked body was found battered beyond recognition in a makeshift grave. All three defendants elected to make statements from the dock without taking the oath which allows the accused to address the court without being cross-examined. Ford insisted he did not kill the victim. Reading from his own notes, he said: "After I hit the girl with the flat of the spade she was still alive. I know this because she was still breathing. And after the

spade was forcefully taken from me, she defended herself by raising her arms against further blows. "I did not kill the girl. I had no intention of rape and neither did I try." He added that he was too drunk to recall who took the spade from him and dealt the killer blows. Ford and his co-accused were stationed at the British Bases. "Before the incident, I had a heavy reliance on alcohol. It was not unusual for me to lose days or parts of days because of the amount of alcohol I often consumed." Another accused, Geoffrey Parnell, 24, said he too was very drunk the night the girl died. He described his statements to police at the time as flashbacks but added: "No matter how hard I tried, I could not and cannot remember anything more. What I am sure of is that I did not do any

harm to the girl that night. I was in a state of shock when I saw what was happening but there was nothing I could do. I was so drunk. I was in no state to do anything but pace up and down by the car talking to myself." The car he referred to was a yellow beach buggy owned and driven by the third defendant, Justin Fowler, 27, of Falmouth, Cornwall. It was used to kidnap Ms Jensen and take her into the countryside. His father was in court to hear him say he stood by a second statement given to police in which he claimed the other soldiers were responsible and that he had been too scared to intervene. However, in his first statement to police, he said Parnell struck the victim and that both had had sex with her. Ford had ordered him to do the same, but he did not.

Prisoners to pay toward their keep

Widdecombe seeks expansion of jail work for private companies

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor

INMATES are to have part of the cost of their keep deducted from their prison wages under a scheme unveiled yesterday by the Home Office minister, Ann Widdecombe. The move is part of a package to expand the amount of work done by inmates for private companies and the number earning "enhanced wages" of £30 to £50 a week. The scheme, announced at the prison service annual conference in Brighton, will need new legislation, and ministers

are backing a private member's bill introduced by Harley Booth, the Conservative MP for Finchley. For the first time, it will allow deductions from inmates' wages as contributions towards their board and lodging; towards supporting their dependants; and towards helping victim support measures. Miss Widdecombe said that so far only about 1,000 prisoners earned more than the basic prison "wage" of about £7 a week paid by the state for duties such as cleaning and working in the kitchens. She hoped to see a big extension fuelled by an expansion of the amount of work done for

private companies. Private work undertaken by prisons already includes preparing ingredients for pizzas and machinery for a national chain of shoe repairs. The cost-cutting programme in the service, which would see the loss of up to 3,000 jobs, would make the task of "maintaining full and active regimes doubly difficult". But she was sure that the professionalism of senior managers "will enable you to find savings in costs without damaging the levels of service". However, she was not able to reassure her audience that the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, was any closer to finding a successor to Derek Lewis, who resigned as director-general last October amid

recriminations over the Parkhurst escape. Richard Tit was made the temporary director-general and four months later speculation continues that there are no other takers. Mr Tit said that morale had been bruised by recent problems. But while the cost-reduction programme would be difficult it would not mean chaos and riots as some commentators had predicted. An official inquiry was set up yesterday after two inmates at the high security Whitemoor prison, in Cambridgeshire, held a prison officer hostage for nine hours on Sunday. They had a homemade craft knife. The incident ended peacefully after negotiators persuaded them to give up. They are expected to be charged.

Advertisement for Esso PRICEMATCH. Text: "TELL HER YOU LOVE HER." Includes Esso logo and "PRICEMATCH" text. Bottom text: "Esso normally monitor fuel prices of supermarkets within 3 miles and other stations within 1 mile of participating Esso Service Stations."

Advertisement for First Direct. Text: "change your life change your bank". Includes "first direct" logo, "06:30", "11:15", "23:30" time slots, and a form to request more information. Phone number: 0800 24 24 24.

brates ent of baby

e quits hype'

urity. Prices!

Esso's a service product

00 888



# Juppé says euro's launch could be more flexible France hints at postponing EMU

Ian Traynor in Bonn

FRANCE and Germany will not break loose and go it alone on a single currency even if other European Union members are unwilling or unable to launch it on schedule in three years' time, the French prime minister, Alain Juppé, said yesterday.

Other countries will make the 1998-99 appointment, including some who criticise the EU but who are getting ready to board the train.

In December, when France was paralysed by the biggest wave of social unrest in decades, partly triggered by spending cuts and the tight budgeting required to meet the terms for the single currency, Mr Juppé's survival in office looked precarious.

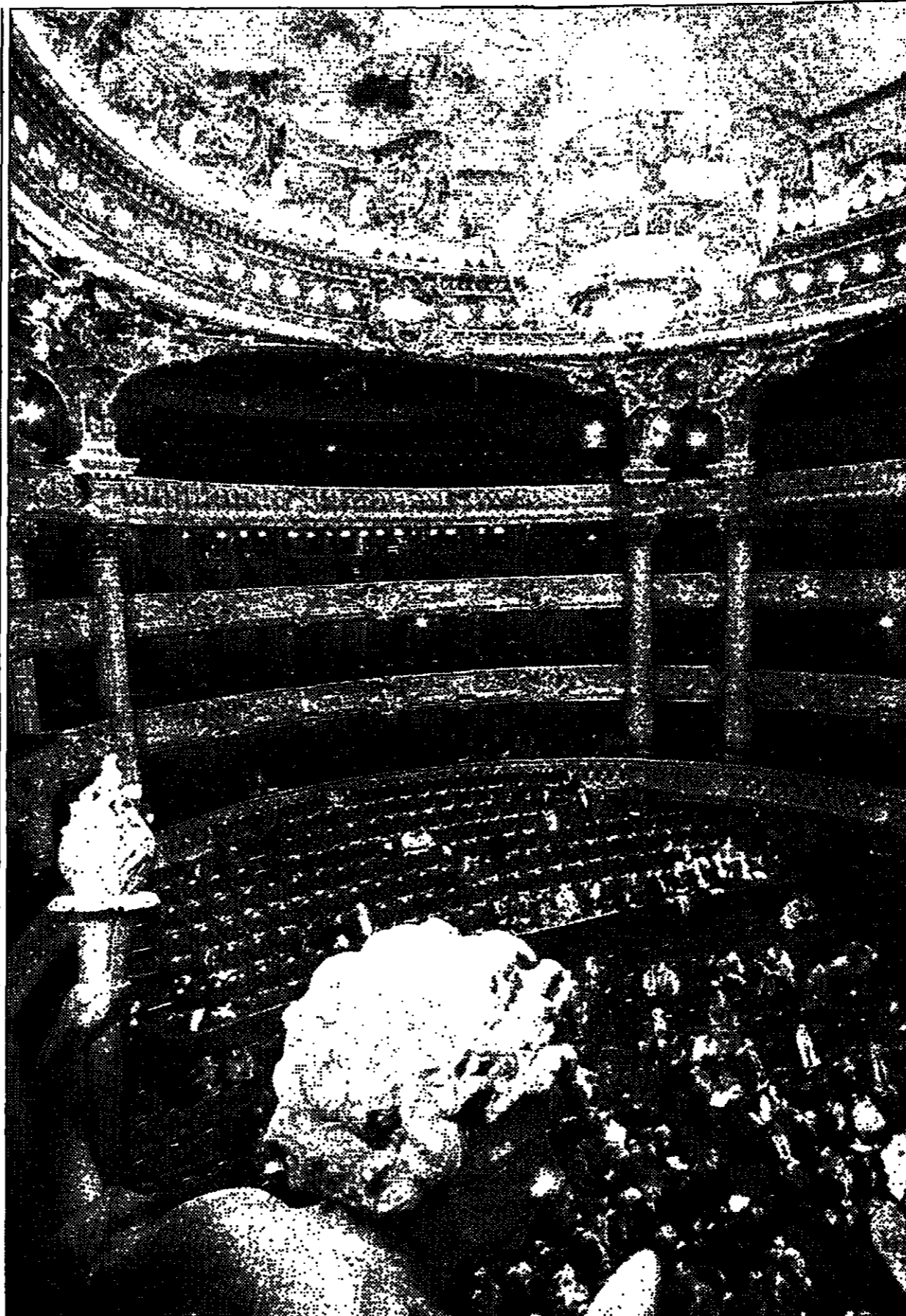
# New rules for pursuit of war crimes suspects

Julian Borger in Zagreb

RICHARD Holbrooke, the United States architect of the Bosnian peace treaty, yesterday announced new rules governing the pursuit of war criminals in an effort to settle a dispute which threatens to disrupt the Dayton accord.

still holds six others. Government and I-For sources said yesterday that two detained officers, General Djordje Djukic and Colonel Aleksa Krcovic, were being sent to The Hague. It was not clear whether they were to be indicted.

any threat accompanying the ultimatum, and Bosnian and I-For officials said they had no knowledge of it. Lt-Col Rayner said I-For would not respond to any communication from Gen Mladic.



Facelift... The 126-year-old Palais Garnier's £20 million renovation is set to re-establish the Paris Opera house after being sidelined by the new and bigger Bastille theatre since 1989

# French opera house preened for comeback

The Palais Garnier's restoration aims to establish the capital as the cultural heart of Europe, reports Paul Webster in Paris

AFTER 18 months of silence, the Paris Opera house is about to burst back into life after a £20 million renovation.

restricted to the new Bastille theatre, opened in 1989.

total of 4,700 seats and a joint potential of mounting at least 400 shows a year.

controlled technology for stage machinery, air-conditioning and new safety techniques. Interior renovation has concentrated on meticulous respect for Charles Garnier's original plans.

But purists who hoped that Marc Chagall's 1964 ceiling, which covered the original 1875 design, would be taken down, will be disappointed.

# Yeltsin sees red as election nears

David Hearst in Moscow

THE two main contestants for the Russian presidential election in June, Boris Yeltsin and Gennady Zyuganov, the leader of the Communist Party, will this week formally announce their candidacies for what most predict will be a bruising campaign.

Despite security chiefs' declarations that a wholesale withdrawal of Russian troops would spell disaster, soldiers began pulling out of Shatol, a rebel-held area where village elders agreed not to allow rebel soldiers back in.

# News in brief

## Kenya cracks down on fraud

Twenty senior Kenyan government officers appeared in a magistrates court yesterday charged with conspiring to defraud the government, after an anti-corruption offensive that covered the ports, customs and tax departments.

## Ex-minister held

Indian federal police yesterday detained Kalpana Rai, a former food minister in prime minister P. V. Narasimha Rao's cabinet, and charged him with sheltering six alleged members of an underworld gang.

## Editor shot dead

Ferdinand Reyes, a human rights lawyer and editor of the newspaper Press Freedom, was shot dead by two men yesterday after he opened his office in Angeles City, in the southern Philippines, police said.

## Shuttle scuttled

Japan successfully launched a rocket carrying an experimental plane yesterday, but the shuttle was lost at sea on re-entry.

## Naked lunch

Walters from a brasserie in central Nice, angered by a smug customer who said he could not pay for a large lunch, stripped off his clothes on Sunday and threw him into the street.

# Naked truth reveals a Polish press hero

Matthew Brzezinski in Warsaw reports on how Jerzy Urban (right) turned himself from a hated symbol of martial law into a champion for freedom of speech



JERZY URBAN is an unlikely hero. As the spokesman for the Communist leader, General Wojciech Jaruzelski, during martial law, he was one of the most hated symbols of that repressive era.

him, last Tuesday, to a one-year suspended prison term for publishing secret government documents in Nie (Polish for No), his lurid weekly.

was not Mr Urban's first, and is unlikely to be his last. He first tangled with the legal system in 1981 shortly after launching Nie, a publication which stretches the boundaries of ethics and taste in its efforts to attack the powerful Catholic Church and Lech Walesa.

have jumped to his defence. Front-page newspaper editorials have condemned the court's decision.

should be the source of the leaks, not the media.

Advertisement for Prostate Relief. Text: 'If you suffer prostate problems such as getting up nights to urinate... urgency and frequency... pain and discomfort you should know about a new book, Your Prostate: What Every Man Over 40 Needs To Know Now!'

McGraw Hill  
Inno  
W  
Anxiety  
Bahrain  
General



Chris McGreal in Lagos reports on a creaking system of 'justice' which routinely condemns remand prisoners to years of brutality

# Innocent left to rot in Nigeria's jails

**W**ITH little else to do but pick at his lice and close his ears to the wheezing, near-naked mass around him, Benedict Kehinde sometimes wondered if it would not have been better to be convicted of any crime.

He would still have been welcomed to Kirikiri prison, in Lagos, with a pummelling by the other inmates until his cell was cracked. And he would still have been forced to sleep with the "shit bucket" spilling on to him until a new prisoner arrived as the virgin of the cell.

But the Nigerian prison system treats those who have been sentenced marginally better than the masses waiting endlessly for a trial. Perhaps he would have risen to

be the all-powerful "cell boss" who made life a kind of hell for others.

As it was, Mr Kehinde, like most Nigerian prisoners, spent seven years in Kirikiri and was never convicted of any crime.

Baba Gana Kingbe, the internal affairs minister, made the unusual admission two weeks ago that there was something appallingly wrong with Nigeria's judicial and prison system. The wheels of justice turn so slowly that two-thirds of the inmates — more than 35,000 people — are awaiting trial. Some have been held as long as 10 years.

Many do not survive the violence, starvation rations and diseases that beset Nigeria's Civil Liberties Organisation (CLO) to call the coun-

try's jails "tombs without tombstones".

Mr Kehinde, now aged 43 and begging on the streets of Lagos, admits that he was illegally hooking his shack home to overhead power cables when the police descended.

He took it in his stride until he was accused of stealing electricity but of sabotaging the power grid — an offence that carries up to life imprisonment.

The police said they needed time to investigate. A judge sent Mr Kehinde to Kirikiri prison, which is filled to capacity twice over.

"It was a big shock that first time I saw the cell. There was no room for me. The men were like the dead. Even the beggars on the street have more clothes. Even the beg-

gars are not so starving. I thought if they put me in there I would never come out alive," he said.

As he stood dumbfounded, a fist struck Mr Kehinde behind the ear. He staggered into other prisoners. It was the excuse they needed to "punch" him. He collapsed under the blows and kicks until he lay coughing blood on to the filthy cell floor.

The ritual beating over, new prisoners are hauled before the "cell boss" and assessed a "state tax" for his cell.

Day and night, the inmates scratch at their insect bites, sores and wounds. Tuberculosis, malaria and piles are routine. In 1983 there was an outbreak of cholera at Kirikiri. The authorities stopped releasing death statistics 10 years ago, but the CLO estimates 400 died.

Medical care is virtually non-existent. Even when the doctors are able to help, the CLO says the prison warders usually steal the prescribed drugs. "To call this anything other than murder is to collaborate in the pogrom being perpetrated in the prisons," the CLO said in a report.

Between battling hunger and sleep deprivation, Mr Kehinde also had to survive the routine violence for infractions of the cell boss's rules, or from sadistic warders who run an elaborate system of theft and corruption.

Prison guards even hire out inmates as cheap labour on construction sites and factories. The warders pocket the pay.

Mr Kehinde would have welcomed the chance to get out of his cell, but those on remand are considered more likely to try to escape.

"I prayed every day to get out of there. I was beaten so many times even now. I cannot walk properly. I lost a lot of my teeth. Look at my legs. Look at the sores! That is how Kirikiri is still punishing me," he said.

Mr Kehinde walked free in October, when a judge finally ruled that the police had no evidence against him.

**'I prayed every day to get out of there. I was beaten so many times, even now I cannot walk properly'**

## Amnesty warns Arafat on abuses

Ian Black  
Diplomatic Editor

**A**MNESTY International has issued a sharp warning to the Palestinian president, Yasser Arafat, not to permit human rights abuses by his security forces — and urged countries which back the peace process with Israel to be more vigilant.

In an unusual move, Amnesty's secretary-general, Pierre Sané, told the Guardian yesterday — as Mr Arafat was being sworn in as president — that there could be no "special pleading" by the Palestinians because of their own suffering under the Israeli occupation.

"Human rights abuses are being justified by the need to ensure the success of the peace process," Mr Sané said. "Public opinion is being manipulated in order to obtain tacit approval of violations and restrictions."

Mr Sané's comments followed a meeting with Mr Arafat in Gaza last week in which the Palestinian leader failed to promise that the work of human rights groups would not be hindered. Mr Arafat said no one was "above the law," but refused to commit himself to end abuses.

Amnesty is concerned because of arbitrary detentions of suspected Palestinian opponents of the peace process. Reports of torture in detention have been rife and six prisoners have died in custody. State security courts have held trials in secret. Nine separate bodies, equally unaccountable, handle security matters.

Mr Arafat won elections three weeks ago and took his oath of office before the acting head of the Palestine National Council, Salim al-Zaanoun, and chief justice, Qusai al-Abadleh. The ceremony took place at the headquarters of the Palestinian legislative council in Gaza.

Under his self-rule deal with Israel, Mr Arafat will head a Palestinian government during an interim period until both sides agree on the final status of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Talks are to begin in May but progress is likely to be delayed by Israel's general election.

Israel's prime minister, Shimon Peres, asked for the dissolution of parliament yesterday to allow for early elections on May 21.

Mr Arafat told Mr Sané last week that he was under pressure from both Israel and the United States to crack down on enemies of the peace process — mainly militant Islamists. But Amnesty's message is that he must now be treated like any other leader and accept responsibility for his government's actions.

"We shouldn't take it for granted that Palestine will be different from other Arab states when it comes to human rights protection," Mr Sané said. "And governments supporting the peace process are not living up to their international obligations in ensuring that human rights standards are maintained. We need to exercise the same degree of scrutiny as we do with other regimes. There can be no special pleading."

Amnesty has also criticised Israel for human rights abuses and urged it to ban the use of torture, including the "physical pressure" currently permitted.

Palestinians scuffled with Israeli soldiers in the West Bank yesterday during protests against Israeli restrictions on movement outside FLO-ruled towns, witnesses said.

Israel erected roadblocks around the towns of Ramallah and Qalqilya, barring Palestinians from leaving and Israelis from entering. An Israeli army spokeswoman said the closures were imposed "for security reasons".



Oath of office... Yasser Arafat is sworn in at the Palestinian legislative council in Gaza yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: NATH HARRIS

### World news in brief

#### Rampaging troops kill 24 Tamils

**SRI LANKAN** troops went on the rampage in the east of the country over the weekend, killing at least 24 Tamil civilians and wounding at least 25 others, politicians and some of the wounded said yesterday.

Two Tamil MPs, Sivasithamparam and Arunasalam Thangathurai, said at least 24 civilians — including women and children — were killed by soldiers on Sunday in Kumarpuram, eastern Trincomalee.

Military spokesmen said they had no information of any such attack, but army officials privately said the allegations were true. They said the troops had gone on the rampage after Tamil rebels had killed two soldiers earlier in the day.

Wounded civilians at Trincomalee hospital said they saw soldiers break open the doors and windows of houses and fire at those inside.

Earlier yesterday, police defused a 330lb truck bomb, which was also packed with ball bearings, in a temple compound on the northern outskirts of the capital, Colombo. The site is within a mile of the cricket stadium where a joint India-Pakistan team is due to play Sri Lanka today. — *Reuters, Colombo.*

#### Bangladesh poll setback

**BANGLADESH'S** ruling Nationalist Party yesterday faced a new threat to its plans to hold a general election — already boycotted by all the main opposition parties — after civil servants said they would not staff polling booths.

Senior civil servants, representing more than 1,000 public employees, yesterday said they would defy an order to report as returning officers for Thursday's vote.

"There is no security," complained one bureaucrat. "Yesterday two of our colleagues were hurt in a bomb attack."

Although the opposition has vowed to disrupt the polls, the bureaucratic boycott could be far more harmful. Radio and television presenters have said they will not report on the election. — *Suzanne Goldenberg, Dhaka.*

#### Rock refuses to budge

**RESCUE** workers again failed yesterday to blast a giant boulder off a collapsed Japanese road tunnel where 20 people have been trapped for more than two days.

The second attempt to use dynamite to dislodge the slab weighing about 50,000 tonnes from the shattered roof of the tunnel, about 30 miles north-west of Sapporo on Hokkaido island, barely moved it.

The boulder crashed through the tunnel roof on Saturday morning, trapping 19 people in a bus and a motorist in a car.

When it fell, a 40-yard stretch of the tunnel's ceiling crashed down from just inside one of the tunnel entrances.

Since the accident there have been no signs of life from the vehicles and some rescue officials believe the victims died instantly, crushed under rock. — *Reuters, Tokyo.*

#### Italian motorway carnage

**AT LEAST 11** people were killed and more than 100 injured in a pile-up on a fog-bound motorway in northern Italy yesterday, police said.

About 200 cars were involved in the crash between the cities of Vicenza and Verona.

Police said the first accident happened on the westbound lane, but then cars heading east slowed to view the carnage and caused a mass pile-up.

Police said they had not yet worked their way through all the vehicles involved, and feared the death toll might rise.

It was Italy's worst road accident since 1989, when 13 people died in a pile-up in the centre of the country. — *Reuters, Rome.*

#### Territorial disputes deepen

**POLICE** seize a student demonstrating outside Japan's embassy in Seoul, South Korea, against Japanese claims to two islands. Tokyo yesterday also faced a possible row with China over other islands. The disputes have been sparked by Japan's plans for a 200-mile economic zone around its shores.

Taiwan, meanwhile, said it was forming a cabinet council to ease tensions with China. — *Reuters, Tokyo and Taipei.*

**Ice sculptures are familiar enough as elaborate decorations, but while we're used to frozen flights of swans and fanciful, glacial castles, this is chill-out minimalism.**

## Bahrain faces general strike

Kathy Evans

**T**HE Bahraini opposition has announced a general strike, starting in the next few days to coincide with the feast marking the end of Ramadan and the year's biggest shopping spree.

A call has gone out to all shopkeepers and schools to observe the strike, though opposition sources say they are not asking employees to lose their jobs. It is the first such national strike to be called in the Gulf.

The strike call comes as staff at Bahrain's Diplomat Hotel continue the clear-up after Sunday night's explosion, which injured four people. It was the second bomb to hit a hotel frequented by foreigners; scores of others have targeted public places and shopping precincts.

Bahraini businessmen had been hoping for a consumer boom over the holiday to boost flagging sales and defuse tensions. The end of Ramadan would have been marked by an influx of thirsty Arabs from the neighbouring "dry" states of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

"I think many Saudis will cancel after this second bomb," one hotelier said. "With luck the government and the opposition will start talking about peace soon."

## 'Cursed' tourists send souvenir rocks back to aboriginal site

Reuters in Sydney

**T**OURISTS who pocketed pieces of Australia's most famous rock have started sending them back to Uluru national park, complaining that the souvenirs brought a curse on their lives, the park's manager said yesterday.

Julian Barry is encouraging belief in the curse to end the souvenir-hunting at Uluru, formerly known as Ayers Rock. He said he had received a few packages a month for the past two years from people who felt their pieces of rock brought nothing but bad luck.

He said officials in Uluru national park, in the outback about 1,200 miles west of Sydney, and the rock's aboriginal owners refer to them as "conscience rocks".

He described one letter as typical of the dozens he had received from around the world. A New Zealand man wrote of his son's bad luck after taking pieces of the rock. He said his son's father-in-law had died and his son had broken his back in a motorcycle accident.

Mr Barry, who does not believe in a curse, said: "We are jumping on the bandwagon by saying to people that it's an offence to take rocks as souvenirs. It's culturally inappropriate."

## Zimbabwe election sows cynicism among farmers

Andrew Meldrum in Harare

**B**USY pulling weeds from their maize field, Mentha Nyamzamba says this is the best rainy season Zimbabwe has had for years and she is looking forward to a bumper harvest.

"I know we have presidential elections," Mrs Nyamzamba said. "But I don't have time to think about them. I'm busy with my crops. These elections won't make much difference anyway."

Apathy has greeted President Robert Mugabe's campaign to win re-election for another six years. Five weeks before the March 16 and 17 presidential polls, no banners, posters or slogans can be seen in Zimbabwe's cities.

In rural areas, where 70 per cent of the 11 million people live, there is little discussion about the presidential race.

"People are not interested in these elections," said a farmer, Shadreck Mushamba. "Many people would like change, but they know it is useless to expect anything from these elections. People are afraid to voice any criticism. The party and the Central Intelligence Organisation have active networks here and no one wants to be identified as opposition supporters."

Few Zimbabweans support the opposition candidates, Bishop Abel Muzorewa, aged 71, and the Rev Ndabaningi Sithole, aged 76. Both are staid by their past association with the Rhodesian leader, Ian Smith. Neither has yet held any rallies or presented cogent alternatives.

Margaret Dongo, the only politician who could have stirred up the presidential race, was disqualified from registering as a candidate because she does not meet the age requirement of 40. A former nationalist guerrilla fighter, an electrifying speaker and scathing government critic, Mrs Dongo has been one of the few politicians to challenge Mr Mugabe's Zanu-PF party. Standing as an independent, she won the Harare South parliamentary seat last year.

Mr Mugabe, aged 72 this month, has been in power since 1980 and shows no sign of wanting to retire. In recent years his rule has been marked by an obsession with security and secrecy, making him virtually inaccessible.

So far Mr Mugabe's speeches have attacked the International Monetary Fund and promised to acquire more white-owned land for redistribution to poor black farmers.

"He always speaks about land when there are elections, but even peasant farmers can see that his promises are hollow," said Mr Mushamba, referring to the government's history of ineffectual land redistribution. Two years ago



**Mr Major changes tune**  
The Prime Minister discovers pragmatic virtues

IF THERE was a simple solution to the Northern Ireland situation then it would have been thought of and acted on long ago. But there is no such thing today and there never has been, and last Friday's IRA bombing only underlines the endless sensitivity of the exercise. Faced with the combination of a stalled peace process and a collapsed ceasefire, politicians of all parties have one of two choices; either they can fall back on dogmatic simplicities which are the guarantee of their own inadequacy, or they can try to do what they are supposed to do best and practice the art of the possible.

Yesterday the House of Commons took the only course open to it and grappled with possibilities once again. Considering the size of the bomb which had gone off less than three days earlier, yesterday's debate was a notably unvengeful occasion. John Major has rightly been criticised for his part in the sequence of events which has brought the peace process to its present low ebb, but he got one important thing right yesterday. He told Tony Blair that there can be no end to the search for a permanent Northern Ireland settlement, whatever government holds power in London. "If we are pushed back," said Mr Major, "we will start again. If we are pushed back again, we will start again. If we are pushed back a third time, we will start again." That was not always the attitude of British governments, but it is the right one now, for all that it suggests a subconscious recognition of failure on Mr Major's part.

This was a more pragmatic Mr Major than the Prime Minister who last addressed the Commons on Northern Ireland three weeks ago after the publication of the Mitchell Report. January's Mr Major had felt confident enough to unilaterally prescribe narrow options on the path to all-party talks. Sinn Fein

could either begin to decommission its weapons or it could participate in an electoral process; one or the other, but nothing in between. February's Mr Major took a more permissive approach. Under questioning from Paddy Ashdown, the Prime Minister conceded that he is prepared to join in an examination of other options too, in other words the Mitchell Report's six principles and perhaps the Irish government's proposed proximity talks. He tried on several occasions to offer reassurances to what nationalists see as the obstructive aspects of January's election proposal. And in reply to the independent unionist MP Robert McCartney Mr Major said he was opposed to the erection of negotiating barriers and to talk of victory; there had to be compromises and open minds, he added.

This was not a new approach, but it was a better one. If only Mr Major had said such things on January 24 when Mitchell was published. Who knows how events might have evolved differently in that case? But that is now the land of might-have-been. The task in the world as it is must be to develop this more flexible tone and to encourage a more pragmatic approach, and to encourage a culture of fresh openness and dialogue in the search for peace. The most important thing that could happen in this context would be for Sinn Fein and the IRA to resume their ceasefire immediately. No matter how arbitrary and hypocritical such a move might seem in the aftermath of Canary Wharf, it would still be much better to do it than not to do it. No progress can come without such a move. Sinn Fein must be placed under constructive and resolute pressure from all sides until this goal is achieved. Nobody can be easily rebuilt after an event such as Friday's bomb. Equally, nobody should pretend that there is any alternative to trying.

**Mr Peres offers peace with risks**

It is not at all clear what Binyamin Netanyahu offers instead

SHIMON PERES has cut the electoral knot in the simplest way possible. Everyone said that he would find it more difficult to push forward the peace process in the next few months as the October elections approached. The pace of talks with President Assad was already flagging and the next phase of talks with Yasser Arafat — supposed to deal with "permanent status" — would also present mounting problems for an Israeli government preoccupied with its political future. So what to do? Mr Peres's answer is to reverse the running order of events; the Israeli elections will now come (in late May) at the earliest possible date: normal negotiating service can then be resumed on the increasingly likely assumption that the Labour government will be returned to power.

Advancing the date would not have been an option for Mr Peres if public opinion had not already shifted significantly in his direction. It is easy to explain this as a "sympathy vote" in the aftermath of the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin. Surveys at the end of last week gave Mr Peres 52-53 per cent against 35-36 per cent for the opposition leader Binyamin Netanyahu. And the projected party seat breakdown would give Labour 48 per cent in the Knesset against 35 per cent for the newly combined strength of Likud and the far right Tsomet party. But though sympathy has played a part the scale of this shift suggests that a more thoughtful process is at work. Mr Peres, broaden-

ing his inheritance from Mr Rabin, offers peace. As one commentator in *Maariv* puts it, it is "Peace with far-reaching concessions. Peace with risks. But peace." It is not at all clear what Mr Netanyahu offers. He already had a severe problem in combating the belief that sections of the Likud party (including some of his own close subordinates) had tacitly condoned the extremism which led to Mr Rabin's assassination. Mr Netanyahu now says that he too will make peace while rejecting all of Mr Peres's concessions. A good proportion of the Israeli electorate clearly does not believe him, and fears a return to a past which promised nothing at all. Significantly most Likud Knesset members now accept the Oslo agreements as a fact of life, and there is pressure from the grassroots for further change.

Mr Peres is also assisted to some extent by the improving economy — which itself is partly a reflection of the more optimistic climate for peace. Unemployment has fallen to just over 6 per cent from the high of 10.2 per cent at the last election. The issue now is more likely to hurt Likud, with concern that its return to power could damage the economy by upsetting the peace process.

There is still a risk for Mr Peres that his high ratings may wane over the next three months, especially if there is a new outbreak of terrorism. Mr Arafat should be thinking of ways to help him: inescapably now they are linked together as partners for peace.

**Mr Kasparov and the deep blues**

The world's greatest living chess player is beaten by IBM

WHEN Gary Kasparov beat IBM's chess computer in 1995 he told the programmers to "teach it to resign earlier." We won't hear that again because this week a hugely more powerful IBM Deep Blue beat Kasparov in the opening game of a challenge match coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the first electronic computer. Kasparov won the second game but the fact is the world's greatest chess player has been beaten for the first time in a full-length game by the desiccated calculations of a sliver of silicon. This marks a milestone in the progress of artificial intelligence.

Kasparov argues that though the latest machines can calculate billions of moves, they lack imagination. What Deep Blue is saying this week is that "intuition" is programmable: merely a question of more megabytes. The sort of shortcut a grand master takes — instinctively avoiding irrelevant moves — a computer can do by being told not

to explore avenues to which it has assigned low values. Deep Blue is now within sight of passing the test laid down by Alan Turing, the father of artificial intelligence. He argued that if a concealed computer was so adept at answering questions that from its responses alone you were unable to tell it apart from a human, that machine could be called "intelligent".

Even if Kasparov does fight back it is only a matter of time before an unbeatable computer is devised. If the human race wants to fight back it may have to play Deep Blue at its own game: science. This week's meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science was given an awesome list of human parts that can be created by "tissue engineers" to replace anything from a pancreas to blood vessels. If we were Kasparov we would get on the waiting list for a micro-chip implant pretty damned quickly.



**Letters to the Editor**

**Soup and a cute psychotic**

IT IS fascinating to learn, from your report of Lord Brockle's conviction that, at Brockle Hall, "Lady Caroline Lamb was served up naked in a soup tureen before Malbourne's cabinet". If so, the diners were probably at once violently sick since, by the time her husband became Prime Minister, Lady Caroline had been dead for six years.

Philip Jones, 109 Maycross Avenue, Morden, Surrey SM4 4DF.

FEAR Alicia Merrett (Letters, February 9) will get little sense or comfort from telephoning British Gas complaint lines. Were she in Edinburgh — and I expect it is the same elsewhere — she would be talking to an agency-hired clerk on a three-month contract at £3.75 per hour. Informed aid and concern can hardly be expected, especially as former employees of British Gas may not be taken on for such posts.

Susanne Ferguson, 1A Nelson Street, Edinburgh EH3 6LF.

ANDREW Clements writes that David Allen's new production for ENO is the first new British production of Tristan in more than a decade. This is news to those of us who enjoyed Yannis Kokkos's production for Welsh National Opera in Spring 1993. But maybe Clements thinks "British" is a synonym for London.

Christopher Bertram, Department of Philosophy, University of Bristol.

MARK LAWSON says that "the Queen's English is alive and well" but what about words which are so often misused in spoken English today which have no meaning and shouldn't be there (from 'ere to split infinitive, February 7)? The worst offenders are "sort of", "you know" and "I mean".

REGARDING the eccentricities of spoken English, I was recently diagnosed as "acute psychotic". I have taken comfort from my unshakable belief that what the psychologist really said was: "a cute psychotic."

Bill Brierley, Shilton Gardens, Bolton BL3.

**An explosion of grief and anger**

AS A young person living in Northern Ireland, I offer my profound apologies to everyone affected by the bomb explosion in a soup tureen before Malbourne's cabinet. If so, the diners were probably at once violently sick since, by the time her husband became Prime Minister, Lady Caroline had been dead for six years.

James Kerr, Meadowbank Avenue, Derry, N Ireland.

THE abysms of violence is inevitable because there is no way that the Conservatives are going to jeopardise their slim hold on power.

D Ellis, Exeter Road, Smethwick, Warley, West Midlands.

YOUR allowance of space to all who wished to appoint a blame for the explosion at the feet of anyone but those who planted it was astonishing (Comment & Leader Page, February 12). Has it not occurred to your writers that this bomb demonstrates completely the need for the reassessment demanded by the Unionist Party?

First the request that the commitment to democratic means be permanent was seen as an unacceptable demand, so the British government conceded a working arrangement. The demand for decommissioning was seen as impossible to fulfill, so the Unionists were unreasonable to ask that the guns were put away permanently. Then those who have neither lifted nor supported the use of arms throughout the provocations of 25 years had the temerity to seek elections. This was unacceptable to Sinn Fein so the IRA plant a bomb.

Tim McKane, Willestown Park, Belfast.

ARUSH to condemn is a sign of insecurity. As a collective response, it does little other than justify among ourselves the exclusion of others.

It diminishes our insecurity by signalling that we're okay and should hold no dialogue with those who are not okay.

Such posturing is fair enough, what assumed by a pre-adolescent child searching for an identity within a group. It can be shrugged off as unfortunately immature within adult relationships.

All mourn the victims of the bombing. We can only pray that leaders can rise above the pettiness of politics and, with more mature judgment, make those concessions and compromises which make adults adult and them, God willing, statesmen.

Alan Coombe, Apollo Close, Hornchurch, Essex RM12.

THE best hope is for the families of those most affected by the violence to set up an action group. The politicians have failed us. The confrontational approach to solving problems doesn't

work: it depends too much on the conditioning of the past. Roy Ridgway, St Peter Street, Winchester SO23.

CONGRATULATIONS on getting the paper out in spite of Friday's appalling bombing but none for your editorial opinion that the U-ster Unionists are vindicated by it (February 10). Or have I missed your earlier record of their warning John Major that to continue, after 17 months and the Mitchell Commission's report, to put forward preconditions for all-party talks would be virtually bound to destroy any last remains of the IRA's belief that they would ever be held?

W B McBride, Southfield Road, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol BS8.

HAVE no particular brief for the Ulster Unionists but if the Protestants of Northern Ireland are colonists (which they certainly were 300 years ago) then so are the Boston and New York Irish, and all white Americans (Letters, February 12). So, no doubt, are we all if we trace our roots back far enough. Where does that leave us? Anne Stott, Clarence Place, Gravesend, Kent DA12.

**Left behind in Auckland**

HELEN CLARK'S defence of the New Zealand Labour Government proved Mark Seddon's basic point — the British left can learn a lot from NZ Labour's mistakes (Letters, February 9).

From 1984 to 1990, Labour implemented economic policies more radical than Thatcherism, with much less finesse. Unemployment, public debt, inflation, welfare dependency and social inequality grew, while wealthy individuals, companies and foreign investors prospered.

With the first proportional representation election due in late 1996, Labour is desperately rewriting its history. The new party line blames Roger Douglas for the excesses of Labour's term and the conservative National government for the social and economic pain which works, Masera and the poor have continued to bear.

But New Zealanders have long memories. Most of

Labour's current leaders were members of the Roger-nomics Cabinet, and almost all participated or at least acquiesced in its programme. Labour now intends to leave most of the decade's restructuring in place, but promises to share the benefits more fairly — a position similar to that of Tony Blair's New Labour.

But New Zealanders aren't convinced. For the past two years, Labour has vied with the old-labour style Alliance for second place in the polls, far behind the deeply unpopular National government. It is the tragedy of social democracy in New Zealand that voters don't trust Labour and don't see the Alliance as a credible force. The conservative right continues to lead the polls, largely by default.

Dr Jane Kelsey, Law Faculty, Auckland University, New Zealand.

We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear. We regret we cannot acknowledge those not used.



**These are grave accusations**

WITH reference to the "Dead Citizens' Charter" the National Association of Funeral Directors has pointed out that the media, funeral directors and all those involved in funeral service provision bear a moral responsibility to ensure that the public are not caused undue concern arising from "sensationalist" isolated incidents, however reprehensible these are (What a rotten way to go, January 31). The bereaved have enough to bear without additional, and unnecessary, anxiety. NAFD members are responsible for approximately 380,000 funerals per

annum, and in 1995 received 87 complaints of which 45 were resolved from the initial telephone call. One mistake is one too many, but some sense of proportion should be acknowledged, as well as the fact that funeral directors are invariably in the front line of the crushing weight of trauma, grief and even anger or guilt and thus become a very handy scapegoat.

Alison Maddaford, President, National Association of Funeral Directors, 618 Warwick Road, Solihull, West Midlands B91 1AA.

**Oil fires a new round of debate**

THE view apparently shared by Dr Harold Hughes and Professor A G Kemp that tax should be levied only on the residue of North Sea profits after capital expenditure is deducted is a strange one (Letters, February 10). Gross trading profits are already arriving at after the deduction of capital costs in the form of depreciation and depletion charges. It is difficult to see why oil companies in the North Sea should effectively be told they can invest however much they like, secure in the knowledge that the Government will reduce its tax-take accordingly. Not only does this seem to imply that only funds internally-generated from ongoing North Sea operations are available for investment, but it is essentially a self-justifying position: lower tax-rates are allegedly needed to encourage capital expenditure which then excludes adequate taxation.

Dr Hughes implies that the North Sea operators are cash-starved and for this reason unable to pay the nation adequately for the use of its natural resources. But this does not ring very true when one examines particular companies. For example, the fact that Enterprise Oil had a negative cash-flow (before financing) in 1995 of £20.6 million didn't prevent it from launching a dawn raid on Lasmo plc the following year at a cash cost of around £160 million. Interestingly, it paid a mere £2.9 million in petroleum revenue tax in 1995.

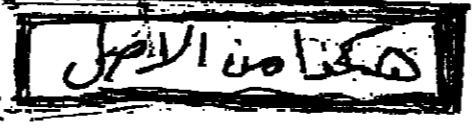
The argument that oil companies would have ceased exploration and development in the North Sea and some elsewhere had it not been for the tax breaks created for them since 1983, is unconvincing. Where would they have gone? The petroleum taxation regimes being applied elsewhere were hardly more inviting. The reality is that the North Sea was (and still is) a comfortable safe-haven: development costs were high but the geology was well understood, the infrastructure excellent and political stability absolutely sound. It is difficult to resist the conclusion that the tax breaks introduced merely subsidised activities.

**A Country Diary**

PLETTENBERG BAY: If you travel 500 kilometres eastwards from Cape Town, leaving behind you the spectacular beaches and peaks of the peninsula, and passing along the coastal plain, you have the ocean on your right, while on your left stretch the rugged, brown Langeberg, Outeniqua, and Tsitsikamma ranges that divide the plain from the plateau of the "Little Karoo" desert. And then you come to Plettenberg Bay. On the way, you have passed ostrich farms and flocks of dusty, brown sheep, some grazed by single ostriches. Flocks of storks fly overhead or feed in fields. A road sign warns of elephants crossing, though only one is thought to survive here, and she seldom emerges from thick forest. Much of the way is lined with Australian gum trees, some flowering. There are lagoons and freshwater lakes. There is thought of introducing a pair of hippo into one of the lakes to clear the thick growth of weeds. Plettenberg Bay lives up to the names

that the early Portuguese sea-venturers gave it, pausing on their way to seek riches in the Indies. They called it the Bay Beautiful (the Formosa) or the Bay of Content. It survives as a natural paradise, despite a luxury hotel on the spot where the Norwegian whaling station once stood, and the prosperous development of holiday homes on the wooded terraces that slope down to the wide arc of beaches. Whales beach here peacefully nowadays at breeding time. On a quiet stretch of wetland (a white fish eagle climbing and circling, preparing for the strike, when he takes a fish in his talons. Blackwinged Stilt probed the sedge. There was a flock of South African Shelduck, with brilliant orange bodies. At Robberg, one of the many dramatic pronouncements, a rock-rabbit followed itself. A mongoose, followed a few moments later, by his more cautious mate, ventured across our path.

JOHN VALLINS





Diary  
Matthew Norman

FROM Ireland, there comes evidence that God Almighty is melting. Since he was taken ill before Christmas, there has been speculation about the health of Tony O'Reilly, the Heinz boss and media tycoon with a large stake in the Independent.

Dr O'Reilly is widely rumoured to have had either a heart attack or a stroke — and had suffered either, the share price of the companies he controls would be in peril. Dr O'Reilly's PR people insist that it was nothing more than an ear infection, and this line has been confirmed by the man himself, in an interview he gave in Miami to his own Irish Independent. It was, he insists, "a complicated by an inner-ear infection."

BITTER DISPUTE has broken out in America, the Jewish Chronicle reports, over the publication of a brochure. Although printed 18 months ago, it was only disseminated last week at a fund-raising dinner for the Bar-Ilan University.

REVEALED here last week, my friend Mandy Mandelbank is now the head of Milbank, Labour's campaign HQ, and there is, it seems, a great deal of talk to be done. One bright young man rang Brent Council's press office last week, after the News of the World ran a story about "barmy Brent blowing millions on potty projects".

CONGRATULATIONS to those of you who spotted the mistake so cunningly dropped into Friday's Diary. The location of the riots pictured above Norman Tebbit's splendid Sun column was, of course, France, as the paper said, and not Austria.

THE HOME OFFICE handbook for security officers on how to cope with bombs has become sadly topical, and my eye is caught by Appendix E — "actions to be taken on receipt of a bomb threat". The list of questions to ask if a terrorist rings you is exhaustive, and if some appear to rely heavily on mutual trust, they are excellent for all that.

FOLLOWING the Patrick Thistle player who was sent off three times during a game in which he played no part, there is yet more news of eccentricity in Scottish football.

REARERS Ian Eddie Copeland has been convicted for an assault that ensued when he took offence at the singing of a Celtic supporter on the top deck of a bus. In a bid to silence the rival fan, Mr Copeland threw his dog at him.

IT HAS taken just two words to transform the US election of 1996 from a big yawn into a gripping political cliffhanger. Taken alone, each of them is as dull as the experts said this year's presidential race would be. But together, as last night's result in Iowa proved, they have turned the contest into dynamite.

# A Major mistake and chance lost for ever

## Commentary Hugo Young

THERE is not and never was a chance of the IRA's capacity for violence disappearing into history. Too much Semtex and too many guns are piled in the back roads of Cork and Armagh and, no doubt, the Home Counties. This would have continued to be the case, whatever terms of "de-commissioning" had been agreed, and whatever underlying promises had preceded the all-party talks. Violence was, and always will be, a potential condition of existence in and concerning Ireland, whether or not any given batch of leaders has agreed to end it.

In these circumstances, the British demand on de-commissioning and renunciation was always more totemic than substantive. If it had been satisfied, that wouldn't have

removed the threat of violence. For ministers to talk about negotiating "when one party has a gun outside the door" may have sounded reasonable but posed, in fact, an unreal hypothesis. The purpose was symbolic: to make the IRA eat dirt. That is a diet the IRA deserves to have stuffed down its throat, but it had almost nothing to do with effective peace-making. Unmentioned in the Downing Street Declaration, it was a way of belatedly recompensing the people most put out by both declaration and framework document, the Ulster Unionists.

However, the demand was inconsistent with the strategy Major had already adopted. This was, bravely and irregularly, to override the Unionist veto on political progress. Major's text was to bypass old entanglements. Ulster, he made plain, no longer had the same eternal place as Cornwall or Wales in British thinking. Its connection was contin-

gent, and he would not strive to keep it alive against any majority inclination that disclosed itself in the future. This was a remarkable shift. It was not, however, a betrayal of the Ulster majority. Behind it stood the unequalled assertion that the majority would be defended. It proposed a new way forward whereby the mainland polity, entering an alliance with the Dublin government, simultaneously defended the status quo while acknowledging that, if the will of the people changed, it might not last for ever. The logic of this was that London would talk to Sinn Fein even though the IRA threat could plainly not be definitively written out of the script.

The point of the strategy was to create a new reality that might lead to a political settlement. It contained no claim that the threat of violence was wiped out of the agenda, but it could make the cost of violence, to the IRA, ever more unsustainable. If all-party talks began, in parallel with rather than preceded by de-commissioning, they would be another step forward, a proof that the momentum of peace could be preserved, a way of further

bedding down a new status quo. It is a great tragedy that they did not occur. If they had, there would have been no South Quay bomb. There might, it is true, have been a later bomb somewhere else. But if the logic of the Major strategy had been pursued, both to protect Unionist rights and to recognise Nationalist aspirations, it would have ended by marginalising the IRA. So it is tragic that the logic was suspended. The South Quay bomb was an IRA obscenity. Nobody else takes a scintilla of the blame. By detonating it, moreover, the IRA has eliminated the chance of Major resuming the line he was pursuing. His own party and his own instincts, quite separate from the Unionists and their control over his parliamentary position, will now combine against permitting the kind of slow, slinky manoeuvres he seemed at one time to be constructively engaged in. For now that this appalling act of violence has been carried out, it is hard to see how any democratic politician could fail to demand from Sinn Fein, before resuming the political dialogue, more rigorous renunciation than they've ever made up to now. This must mean that the chances of resuming the peace process are slender. It seems almost likely, though I would be loath to say so, that Mr Major's strategy has been destroyed, along with Gerry Adams, in whom lay the best hope of making it work.

If my analysis is correct, it says something grave about the British political process. If the de-commissioning demand was, in the real world, a chimera, then this whole political edifice Mr Major constructed was not well served by it. It was invented to satisfy the Unionists, who were thus able to impose their view on the entire negotiating procedure, and almost the entire House of Commons. The House of Commons is important. It has been a place of reliable consensus from the beginning to the end of the peace process. But we begin to see the weaknesses of this. There was a huge majority for the process, and thus for the adventurous modifications it made on time-honoured British attitudes to Ulster. It is hard to believe, given the symbolic nature of the required de-commissioning, that the majority, given a free hand, would have allowed that to stop the process dead. If the Government had found another way of dealing with it, Mr Major would have secured the certain agreement of most MPs. But at the last, he ran away from his own logic. Instead of assembling a critical mass of British politicians behind a process that posed no genuine threat to the Unionist constituency, he let the Unionists draw their line in the sand.

# At last, a break in the storm against unions



Paul Foot

AT LAST from Liverpool, comes a blast of industrial defiance. Mersey dockers have been on strike since the end of September. An agency which employed 60 young dockers sacked one of them for refusing to work overtime because his wife was coming home from hospital with a new baby. The young man's mates protested, and they too were sacked. A picket line was thrown up outside the docks. When the 500 dockers came to work the next day they refused to cross it. The Mersey Docks and Harbour Company sacked them too.

nowadays, they assumed that workers are easily bought. They offered golden handshakes of £25,000 if the dockers would leave their jobs. The result of the ballot was announced last Friday. For 56% against, 37%. This was a terrible shock for the employers. The dockers meant what they said! Their only demand is to be reinstated in the jobs from which they were so shamefully dismissed. Mersey Docks and Harbour Company's share price dropped 34p and £30m was wiped off its market value. The dockers are jubilant and are planning a campaign to blockade the entire port. I find all this exhilarating, not just because offensive employers have been stopped in their tracks but because of the transformation in the lives of the dockers and their families. When Doreen McNally spoke at the first city rally for the dockers, she said that every one involved had discovered a new sense of purpose and dignity. This is all of profound interest, I suggest, to everyone interested in how people live and work. Yet it is avoided by almost all the media. When working people are passive, they are patronised and insulted. When they are active, they are ignored.

We mustn't be panicked by the IRA bomb into ending dialogue, argues Mo Mowlam

# Talk peace back to life

AFTER 527 days, the IRA ceasefire ended with a violence that shocked us all. Perhaps people unfamiliar with the twists and turns of the peace process who had come to assume that peace alone would be enough in Northern Ireland, will be more shocked than most. Those who have followed closely will know that progress has been fragile for months. Despite the progress that has been made, many of the difficult issues have yet to be properly addressed.

The first of those has been how to establish the necessary confidence to bring the parties to the negotiating table. After Friday, this will be an even greater task. The question now is: how can we regain the momentum? The biggest push has to come from the British and Irish governments working

together. The most successful steps in the peace process so far — the Downing Street Declaration and Joint Framework Document — have come from a twin approach. As part of Labour's bi-partisan approach we will do all we can to help both governments to move forward beyond this appalling setback. We cannot just go back three days and pretend that nothing has happened. But neither can we hang our heads in defeat. Sinn Fein must commit themselves to a genuine ceasefire. And Senator Mitchell's six principles to build confidence should now clearly be accepted by Sinn Fein.

Achieving that agreement was the original remit of the twin-track talks process. That should continue to be the focus of the two governments and we welcome their commitment to maintain the search for peace in dialogue with those parties in Northern Ireland who are committed to peaceful and democratic methods.

Friday's bomb means that unless and until Sinn Fein succeed in re-establishing the ceasefire, they will not be brought into this process. Over this weekend I spoke to many people who feared that the peace process had been set back two years. It has been clear to the two governments that they are determined not to let that happen and to build on the progress made so far. But it is equally clear that things cannot simply revert to how they were before Friday. Security will be stepped up in Britain and in Northern Ireland. The IRA are now a live threat again. For the protagonists in the peace process, that changes perceptions and destroys confidence. That will have to be



Buying his way to power: presidential hopeful Steve Forbes

Last night's Iowa Republican poll was dominated by calls for a flat tax. But its appeal goes far beyond economics, writes Jonathan Freedland

# Powerfully simple

IT HAS taken just two words to transform the US election of 1996 from a big yawn into a gripping political cliffhanger. Taken alone, each of them is as dull as the experts said this year's presidential race would be. But together, as last night's result in Iowa proved, they have turned the contest into dynamite.

The candidate promotes his big idea in 30-second ads by holding up the existing US tax-code, a document so packed with arcane rules and exceptions that it's thicker than a telephone book. He tears the thing into shreds before brandishing a single sheet of paper — the tax form according to President Forbes.

His plan is to sweep away the whole, progressive edifice of different rates for different taxpayers and replace it with a single rate, one size fits all.

Everyone pays 17 per cent, whether they're a publishing tycoon or his chauffeur. Forbes's Republican rivals have wasted no time flattening the flat tax. One has already claimed to be claiming it will bring in so much less revenue, the government will run out of money. Populist firebreather Pat Buchanan targets the flat tax's exemption of all income derived from interest, stocks and inheritances, warning that Forbes would pay no tax, while his chauffeur would pay plenty. Forbes defends the disparity by noting that businesses have already paid corporate tax and shouldn't be taxed twice. Buchanan says it sounds like something "dreamed up by the boys at the yacht basin".

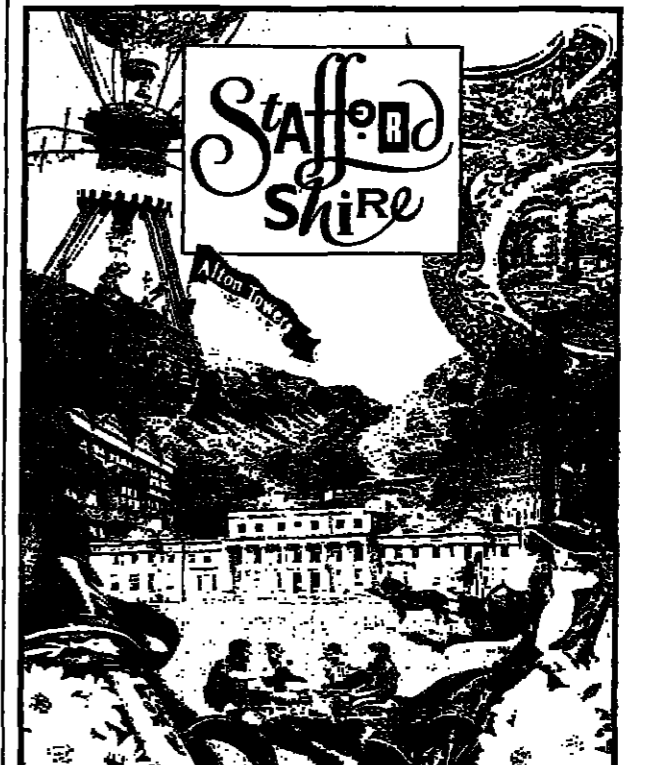
And yet these arguments miss the essential point about the flat tax. For the core of its appeal is not economics. It is simplicity, says Mary Day, an advertising saleswoman in Des Moines, Iowa who'd heard Forbes address a group of business people. "I like the fact that it would take a quick amount of time to fill in and the black clothes so they'll all match each other. It's simple," she says.

Car mechanics report demands from motorists for cars with fewer sensors and computers on gadgets. They want old-fashioned machines they can understand.

The high priests of this cult are the gurus of the Living Simply movement, concentrated in Seattle and the Pacific northwest of the US. They have inspired growing numbers of "downshifters" to get by on less money, living simpler, more fulfilling lives. Books like Voluntary Simplicity have become surprise bestsellers while the Trends Research Institute predicts that by the year 2000, 15 per cent of thirty and forty-somethings will form a "simplicity market", buying cheap, long-lasting goods.

Much of this collapses into nostalgia, with Americans yearning for a simpler past that's why the Waltons museum in Virginia is such a success. At its heart, it is a reaction against those forces of modern life — cybertechnology, the global market — which have shaken the old certainties. Recalling from the new and scary, Americans are clinging to what they know — and what they understand. And Steve Forbes understands that only too well.

Something similar has happened to music, now that every bank of note is obliged to recast its work Unplugged. Clearly, rebelling against the industry's prior domination by synthetic technology, audiences are demanding a more natural, simpler sound. The once mega-decibel voice of Bruce Springsteen is now heard in small venues accompanied by just an acoustic guitar and a mouth-organ. The Rolling Stones new album is a pared-down effort called Simply Deep.



# SHORT BREAKS WITH LONG MEMORIES

From the exhilaration of Alton Towers, to the beautiful Peak District and from the world famous 'Potteries' to delightful Sandy Homes, Gardens and Market Towns, Staffordshire will never cease to amaze you. For your free brochure with discount vouchers, return the coupon or call us now on: 0345 660560 (calls charged at local rate)

NAME .....  
ADDRESS .....  
POSTCODE .....  
Please return to: Staffordshire Tourism  
P.O. Box 27, Barnstaple, EX21 1YW. GU 13/2



Patrick Ludlow

A toff in aspic

FEW ACTORS have ever had a longer run than Patrick Ludlow, whose career spanned most of the century...

The new naturalism demanded polish, poise and an exact sense of how to throw away a line

plays was that to act them effectively you had to know how to do very little to the maximum effect...

Noel Coward (Ludlow had been at Madam Cont's with Coward) wrote the best plays of his kind...

He got the hang of looking, sounding and behaving like a lord so precisely (or as lords were supposed to seem at that time) that at least one...

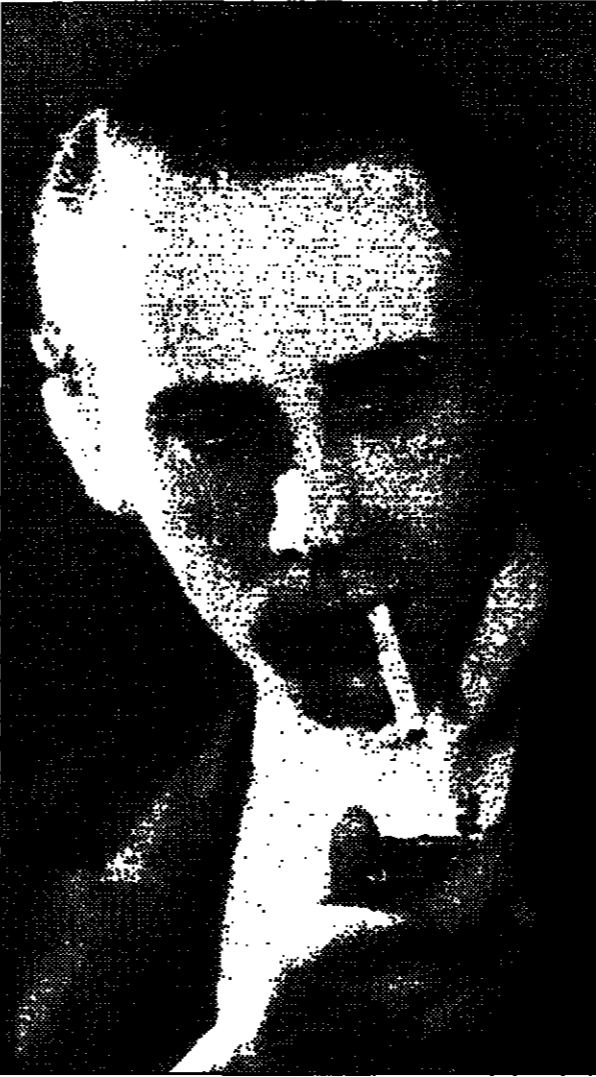
When he realised over cocktails that there had been some misunderstanding, he smiled apologetically...

His peers on stage or screen might not have made him a star - C Aubrey Smith had got to Hollywood...

Lilian Baylis may have turned him down for the Old Vic (influenced no doubt by that Scoutmaster in Young England which everybody saw more than once)...

He ran post-war reps at Maidstone (where Joan Collins swept his stage 'beautifully' as assistant stage manager)...

In his seventies he turned to theatrical journalism. He could afford to miss his old and afflicted by deafness as Lord...



Acting the part... the impeccable Patrick Ludlow

Bloody Ludlow, about his age and asked him to play butlers last year.

He was married twice, in 1935 to Hilda Taylor (Paulette Ludlow the actress), and in 1955 to Maaja Garner.

John Shorter  
Eric Patrick Sutton Ludlow, actor, born March 24, 1908; died January 27, 1996

Edward Goodman

The Liberals' lateral thinker

EDWARD Goodman, who has died aged 81, was a remarkably successful estate agent and property developer...

Educated at Mill Hill School, he had wanted to go on to university but his father's ill health required him to work in the family firm...

Almost simultaneously with his appointment, Goodman founded the Acton Society Trust, named after Lord Acton, the 19th-century Cambridge historian...



Goodman... changing scale

While the Acton Society continued to produce independent research, Goodman began to develop his own line of interests which culminated in publication of The Impact Of Size (1969)...

In a not dissimilar way to E E Schumacher, he was an earlier advocate of "small is beautiful"; the difference was that whereas Schumacher's work focused on appropriate or intermediate technology...

The strongest intellectual influences on Edward Goodman were those of Lord Acton, Simone Weil and the historian Arnold Toynbee.

It was touching to see how quickly he fitted into that role. In Brooklyn there are rabbis who meet for decades to argue about the mistreatment of Old Testament personalities...

Birthdays

Michael Attenborough, theatre director, executive producer, Royal Shakespeare Company, 46; David Banks, former editor, Daily Mirror, 48...

Death Notices

DE LA PORTAS, Abbey (Mrs Joan) died peacefully on 5 February 1996. Much loved, died peacefully on 5 February 1996...

In Memoriam

CARNEY, died 1981. I'm remembering you with an announcement telephone 0171 611 9000

Chaim Pearl

Old-school cleric

CHAIM PEARL, who has died aged 76, was a rabbi who was considered so dangerously modern that he was old-fashioned...

His trouble was that along with his learning went his teaching, and to a later, more fundamentalist, generation that was dangerous - because he also questioned...



An old-fashioned modernist... Rabbi Chaim Pearl

large, so his move there 15 years later was a natural transition. The size of his congregation was declining, but it had been the most fashionable synagogue in London...

What didn't suit him were the moves towards greater orthodoxy that led to what was very close to a religious schism four years after his arrival...

Refused the pulpit, Jacobs formed his own congregation which became the model for the messianic movement, while Pearl thrived in Riverdale's intensely Jewish environment...

Chaim Pearl, rabbi, born November 25, 1919; died December 18, 1995

Ellis Hillman

Running to the left

ELLIS Hillman, who has died aged 68, was a long-term figure on the left in London's local government arena...

Ellis was a small, enthusiastic Jewish teenager when he tried to gain admittance to the fortified West London headquarters of the Revolutionary Communist Party...

"postponed". Officers police amnesty, the RCF managed to get to the wrong police station and throw the nervous constabulary there into bewildered confusion...

This scenario was typical of Hillman's life. One side of him always wanted to join "the gang that couldn't shoot straight"...

Another Day

February 13, 1870: St Valentine's Eve: Preached at Civo in the morning (Matthew xv, 30). Very few people in Church...

tradition of the Torah and he kept one foot firmly planted within rabbinical conformity. Apparently in the mid-fifties he joined the dialectical school of Gerry Healey...

WISLEY he ran away from Comrade Healey and his commissars to enjoy the company of the venerable Trotskyite thinker F A Ridley...

Wild and woolly he appeared but he was far from it. He was secured in a family which produced chief rabbi material and indeed a cousin became president of Israel...

His local government life at London's County Hall from 1958-81 brought him much fulfilment...

Hilfy Harrington  
Ellis Hillman, local politician, born November 17, 1927; died January 20, 1996

Jackdaw



Smoky bear

DEAR MARVIN, I am a police officer in Southern California. Approximately two years ago, I was forced to shoot and kill a menial deranged woman who was attacking my partner with a knife...

which was then filled with myself and several of my fellow officers sharing cigars, usually La Unica 100s or Cuba Aliados robustos...

DEAR MARVIN, I had no idea what sort of book they wanted and when I met Naomi I realised that she was not going to be involved, she was going to be so busy...

officer. Immediately after the verdict, I called my wife with the good news. The second thing I did was to go to a fast food drive through, buy lunch and go to Smithy's store...

Model ghost

JUDITH SPELMAN: Tell me about ghost-writing Susan Caroline Upcher: I was working for Reed, the publisher, as a freelance and they called me to say they might be publishing Naomi Campbell's novel...

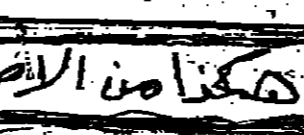
twist, twitch IT IS A weekday morning, well out of holiday season, but already Morwenston's church car park is full. Ahead, a straggling procession of men - they are all men - toils purposefully across the fields towards Henna Cliff...

Twit, twit Where? After unsuccessful Golden Shot comments of left-a-bit and three o'clock, your neighbour (who has driven all the way from North Yorkshire) offers you a peek through his telescope...

though their heavy gear weighed not an ounce... Imagine that little owl raising an eyelid for a spot of jaundiced human-watching. First distinguishing feature: the decent motor - a 2CV won't give you the speed required for a cross-country dash across England...

twit, twit Bird-watching had embraced the cult of the rarity... Even language gave way and remade itself... To go after a rare bird and get there too late was to "dip" it, and when your mate got there in time, but you didn't, he'd "gripped you off"...

Look at me... GQ



Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'The Guardian Tuesday February 13 1996' and various other fragments.



Financial Editor: Alex Brummer  
Telephone: 0171-239-9610  
Fax: 0171-833-4456

# Finance Guardian

## Eurotunnel calls in 'sages'

### Wakeham to try to strike debt refinancing deal

Alex Duval Smith in Paris and Patrick Donovan

LORD Wakeham, the former Tory minister and leader of the House of Lords, has been drafted in to help break the deadlock in the £8 billion refinancing negotiations between Eurotunnel and its consortium of 225 sup-

porting banks. The debt-encumbered channel tunnel operator announced that Lord Wakeham, now a NM Rothschild director and head of the Press Complaints Commission, will be appointed mediator alongside Robert Badinter, Socialist former head of France's constitutional council. Eurotunnel yesterday attempted to put a positive spin on the news by insisting that a dividend payment to shareholders was still "possible" over the longer term. The company disclosed that revenues for the full year in 1995 were £284.5 million — nearly £20 million better than previously expected. Current year revenue figures will show growth of "more than 50 per cent", the company forecast. But it conceded that it could not rule out the option of swapping bank debt for equity to get out of its financing crisis. French shareholders, who have invested £3 billion, have seen the value of their shares plummet from £4.50 in 1987 to 84p. French co-chairman Patrick Ponsolle said: "We want to preserve the rights of shareholders as best we can."

so that they can look forward to dividend payments. However, part of their rights — in consultation with them — may have to be conceded to the creditors". Mr Ponsolle added: "I am not calling for Eurotunnel to be bailed out. It is not a struggling company. Rather, I am speaking as a contractor whose contract has been breached. We are being hampered by the slowness in the upgrading of the Folkestone to London line, caused by the break-up of British Rail in the run-up to privatisation." He said it remained unacceptable that Eurotunnel was obliged to pay £1.6 million a year to Kent Constabulary whereas the services of French police were provided free of charge. The mediators' appoint-

ment was announced after the market had closed. Eurotunnel shares in London were unchanged at 84p. But analysts remained unimpressed. The appointment was the first official confirmation that debt renegotiations have become bogged down in unexpected problems. Richard Hannah, transport expert at UBS, said: "If it is all so marvellous, why is Eurotunnel at death's door financially. How come it is all so marvellous when it can't even pay its interest bill?" Talks with the 225 banks started after Eurotunnel was forced to negotiate an interest payment freeze last September because of its deteriorating financial situation. The mediators, who were appointed under a 1994

French law on companies in difficulty, can put forward proposals but do not have formal decision-making powers. The two men were appointed by the Paris commercial court following a request from Eurotunnel. Mr Ponsolle said: "Our move to push for the appointment of mediators — which we prefer to call sages — should not be interpreted by the banks as aggressive". However, legal experts in Paris indicated that the procedure usually worked in companies' rather than banks' favour. One said: "The system functions very well for employers and trade unions, since the mediators usually take into account human elements, like jobs, ahead of the institutional investors' demands."

## Test of wills for Ken and Eddie



Edited by Alex Brummer

THE Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, will no doubt be kept awake at night by producer prices figures, which give support to his gut feeling that the UK faces no inflationary danger. With the Bank of England's inflation report due to be released tomorrow, accompanied by warnings about monetary growth and the trend in pay settlements, the stage is set for another rousing act in the Ken and Eddie show. Mr Clarke's gamble on keeping downward pressure on interest rates wins some support from the latest producer price data. The figures show a dramatic decline in the input prices on which industry costs are largely based. In August of last year those prices were rising at an annual rate of 9.1 per cent. Last month they were down to 4 per cent, reflecting the stronger sterling exchange rate and the sharp decline in commodity prices. Rapid destocking, which is taking place in the developed world as demand falls, is feeding through directly to global price levels. However, it is not just input prices which are improving. The current weakness in the demand side of the economy means that manufacturers are finding it extremely difficult to raise prices to recover costs, as has traditionally been the case in January. This meant that the annual producer price inflation rate was down to 3.5 per cent in January compared to 4.4 per cent in December. Nevertheless, it looks as if Mr Clarke is continuing to gather the ammunition he needs to keep interest rates coming down this Spring, in the hope of delivering something close to the 3 per cent growth he foolishly promised in the Budget and more of the "feel good" factor which has been elusive for so long.

The agenda of the Governor, Mr George, is very different. As the man in charge of the boiler room at the Bank of England during the inept defence of the pound in September 1992, he knows how high risk strategies can backfire. The objective of the Inflation Report is to reduce the risk of missing the central inflation target of 2.5 per cent and ensure that the inflation outlook, not just now but in 18 months' time, is not jeopardised. The test of wills between Threadneedle Street and Number 11 is going thermo-nuclear once again.

### Greenbury groans

DISCONTENT with the Greenbury Code on directors' pay and conditions continues to rumble through boardrooms. That is the central message of a report by the accountants Coopers & Lybrand. Based on interviews with a small number of leading UK companies, Coopers concludes that companies are complying grudgingly. They report a feeling that boardroom freedoms are being curtailed by over-prescriptive codes, and that directors are being exposed to too much scrutiny. Such views might be understandable, were it not for the background of irrevocable and hypocritical practices which prompted the creation of the Greenbury committee in the first place. During the 1980s directors gorged themselves on big salaries, easy bonuses and lavish options, while at the same time fiercely attacking conditions of their staff. Given that background, it is absolutely right that directors' pay and perks should be subject to the widest scrutiny. The trouble is that the attention elicited by Coopers demonstrates, that Greenbury will result in compliance with the letter but not the spirit of the new code. The responsibility for ensuring that boardroom practices are ultimately aligned with the shareholders.

## Meat Loaf seeking £9.3m for lost royalties, report Lisa Buckingham and Mark Tran



### Bat out of Hell bites Sony

MEAT LOAF, the larger-than-life rockstar, yesterday launched a suitably heavy-weight legal action directed at Sony, claiming more than £9.3 million in compensation for an alleged shortfall in royalties. The 20-stone singer's target is a small Ohio record label — Cleveland International — that signed a contract in 1977 with CBS's Epic Records, which was bought by Sony in 1988, to manufacture and distribute the hit album Bat Out of Hell. The move follows a similar suit by Cleveland against Sony five months ago. Cleveland accused the Japanese conglomerate of "willfully and maliciously" distorting contract deduc-



Heavyweight action... pop star Meat Loaf who believes that he has not had his cut

tions in order to reduce royalty payments. It also claimed that Sony violated its contract by refusing to disclose financial records Cleveland needed to complete an accounting of funds owed to Meat Loaf. The 48-year-old American singer says Sony, and the CBS label it acquired some years ago, has made more

than £66 million from his work but has failed to pass on the proper royalty payments. He claimed last year that he was "struggling to make a living" after failing to secure the proper royalties on his albums. He had initially threatened to sue Sony for \$100 million. Mr Loaf, as he is known

officially — despite being plain old Meat to his friends — was incensed when Sony released a compilation of his recordings featuring Bonnie Tyler. The 48-year-old Meat Loaf, who now records for Thorn-EMI's Virgin label, is due to perform at Newcastle upon Tyne's new arena in the spring.

In the suit, Meat Loaf, whose real name is Marvin Lee Aday, also asks the court to rule that the defendants have forfeited all rights and interests to himself, that the master recordings should revert to him and that Sony be barred from selling any Meat Loaf recordings. The action, filed in New

York, alleges that royalties from Bat Out of Hell — estimated to have sold more than 30 million copies and which spent eight years in the UK charts — are among the outstanding debts. A spokesman for Sony yesterday declined to comment on the action. But Meat Loaf's latest single is Not a Dry Eye in the House.

## Poaching hits BZW options

Ian King

BZW, the investment banking arm of Barclays Bank, came close to suspending its options trading last December, after a number of key computer staff were poached by its fast-growing German rival, West Merchant Bank. BZW, which has since replaced the team, was only able to continue trading by retaining two specialist consultants at salaries thought to be over £150,000 a year. The four-strong team — responsible for designing and running the hi-tech system, without which trading cannot

continue — left after being hand-picked by the Germans. Their departure left BZW with the choice of either shutting down the system, which carries a direct information feed to BZW boss Peter Middleton, or offering the two consultants higher salaries. One BZW insider said the situation was typical of the way in which British banks run their information technology operations. He said: "It was a joke — the bank was completely dependent on the team, and was left high and dry when they quit. But all the banks are run like that, it's not just BZW." The four BZW staff were recruited as part of a drive by

WMB — the investment banking arm of Westdeutsche Landesbank — to become a leading City player. Last September, it poached 10 derivatives experts, including three executives, from Deutsche Morgan Grenfell as part of its decision to run its global derivatives operation from London. Patrick Macdougall, chairman and chief executive of WMB, confirmed the appointment of the BZW quartet. He said: "Yes, we did appoint the team, but I didn't think it was especially noteworthy — we have been steadily building up both front and back-office staff in that area." Earlier this month, WMB

bought one of London's best-known stockbrokers, Panmure Gordon, for £30 million, and is expected to recruit a further 300 staff in London over the next three years. Yesterday, WMB, which has also poached a number of derivatives experts from SBC Warburg, said it had recruited Timothy Von Halle, a senior executive at Merrill Lynch's Frankfurt operation, to head its bond sales and trading arm in London. Meanwhile, BZW is thought to be bracing itself for a fresh series of departures, this time among its derivatives trading team. Morale is said to be low after BZW decided against paying the traders big bonuses.

## Names demand more money 'or rescue will fail'

Pauline Springett

THE plan by Lloyd's of London to split its £2.8 billion rescue offer among its loss-stricken Names was attacked by action group leaders yesterday as inadequate. They said the split was unfair towards the insurance market's investing Names who had paid their losses, the proposed £100,000 cap on liabilities was pitched too high, and unless significantly more money was injected into the compensation pot, the rescue would fail. David Rowland, chairman of Lloyd's, which has lost £11 billion in recent years, acknowledged that the proposals were not completely fair. "It is not possible to be as fair as we would like," he said. "But this offers the most practical solution to our problems."

paid their losses in full are not disadvantaged, while wealthy Names who have refused to pay do not benefit unduly. Key to the proposals is a £100,000 cap on the amount of extra money Names will have to pay after their deposits at Lloyd's have been exhausted. Names have to deposit around 30 per cent of their underwriting capacity at Lloyd's — often this is in the form of bank guarantees on houses. Lloyd's is aware that many Names might lose their homes as a result. David Rowland said that if Names rejected the deal they would face a much starker future if the market simply collapsed. "We have to take from those who have in order to give to those who have not," he said. Meanwhile the Commons select Treasury and civil service committee yesterday reopened its investigation into Lloyd's when it grilled trade minister, Anthony Nelson, over the Government's response to last autumn's report on the market. The report had described Lloyd's regulation as "irrevocably tarnished". Mr Nelson denied that the Government's response to the report had been complacent and said there was a case for reviewing the regulation of Lloyd's, but he said there should be a delay, until the summer of 1997.

## Leeson tells his tale of disguise

Dan Atkinson

JAILLED trader Nick Leeson, making his authorial debut, yesterday disclosed how he was able for so long to hide the huge losses that broke his employer, Barings bank. His skill, it would seem, was not so much forgery or deception, but masterly disguise. Camouflaged behind his striped blazer and mid-Atlantic badinage, Leeson convinced Barings that he was a chap in a baseball cap whose obscure trading antics were making them a mint. Whereas, actually, these antics were about to close the

bank. Failing to spot the difference between the two was — according to the first extract from Mr Leeson's biography, serialised in the Daily Mail — largely down to Tony Raitton, the senior settlement clerk sent over from Barings UK to clear up cash flow worries. Mr Raitton had sat next to Leeson during the month running up to the dealer's flight from Singapore on February 23, 1995. Despite this proximity, Mr Raitton was, apparently, quite unaware of Leeson's £11 billion exposure on the Tokyo market. But then, the Raitton interrogation style was not exactly unmemorable for a man of Lee-

son's cunning. On that last fateful Thursday, Mr Raitton quizzed the trader. "How was the market?" "Brilliant," I flashed him a smile which I'd made a lot of money. "I'm sorry, it was crazy out there. I nodded and let him draw his own conclusions. It looked that way," he smiled with admiration. Having survived this grueling inquisition, there wasn't much left for Nick to do, other than head out of Singapore for "one hell of a holiday". This was to be a break with a difference: neither Nick nor his wife Lisa was planning a return journey. Had Mr Raitton "been able to operate just one simple

checking device", according to Nick, "he'd have seen some figures that would have given him a heart attack". The senior clerk's failure to find the losses was pathetic, writes Leeson. A little unfair, considering Leeson himself hadn't dared look at the "error" account all month: "It scared me to death." And anyway, no one else knew trouble was looming. Except his fellow traders. And the local press, which rang him that last Thursday to ask what he was up to. But no one apart from that. Certainly not Barings. Rogue Trader, by Nick Leeson, began serialisation in the Daily Mail yesterday. It is published by Little Brown.

## MAM sells MAI in no-bid bet

Lisa Buckingham

MAJOR shareholders in the media groups MAM and United News yesterday sold large tranches of stock, apparently in a bet that Michael Green's Carlton Communications would not rush in to scupper a planned merger between the two corporations with its own hostile bid. Mercury Asset Management, a major investor in Lord Hollick's MAI group, which owns Anglia and Meridian TV, sold 670,000 shares, on top of the £3 million disposal which it made last Friday. The sale, at between 430p and 442p a share, reduced the group's holding in MAI to 5.98 per cent. With shares in United, owner of the Daily and Sunday Express, standing 11p lower at 63p, the merger values MAM's shares at 406p. The MAM share sale was followed by the disclosure that Hermes, the Post Office and Telecommunications pension fund manager, had sold 50,000 United shares at 65p, reducing its holding to 3.8 million shares or 1.56 per cent of the company. Although the share sales could indicate that fund managers do not believe the stock price of MAI and United will be driven higher by a hostile bid, analysts said yesterday that the institutions could simply be seeking a profit turn on a small part of their holdings.

TOURIST RATES — BANK BELLS

Australia 1.86	France 7.48	Italy 2.90	Singapore 2.12
Austria 15.25	Germany 2.1900	Malta 0.5425	South Africa 5.40
Belgium 46.00	Greece 369.00	Netherlands 2.4600	Spain 183.75
Canada 2.04	Hong Kong 11.61	New Zealand 2.22	Sweden 10.55
Cyprus 0.7950	India 51.22	Norway 9.51	Switzerland 1.25
Denmark 8.50	Ireland 0.9550	Portugal 227.50	Turkey 62.848
Finland 7.01	Israel 4.76	Saudi Arabia 5.67	USA 1.4825

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).



After decade of rapid growth in US, gaming groups look across Atlantic



Wheel deals... Sharon Stone in Martin Scorsese's movie, Casino, which opens in London this month. Now gambling Las Vegas-style may come to the UK.

PHOTOGRAPH: PHILIP CARUSO

# Las Vegas contemplates a gamble on London

OUTLOOK/Britain's casino business is opening up in advance of deregulation. IAN KING reports

AMERICAN casino operators are eyeing up some of their British counterparts, according to market sources. London Clubs International is the likeliest bid target.

London Clubs, whose shares yesterday hit a new closing high of 499p, up 13p, is just one of several groups whose casino businesses are still highly attractive — even though other parts of the multi-billion pound gambling business, notably bookmaking, have suffered severely as a result of competition from the National Lottery.

Others include Stakis, the hotels group, which last week sold its Barrakuda casino in London to Ladbroke for £27.5 million, Stanley Leisure, the Merseyside-based bookie with a string of 21 casinos across northern England, and Capital Corporation, which owns Crocksford.

Even Rank, whose Grosvenor business is Britain's biggest casino operator, could be in the frame. The prospective buyers are thought to include Harrah's, the aggressively expanding Memphis-based casino operator, Las Vegas-based Circus Circus Enterprises, and ITT, which owns the Sheraton Hotels chain and the Caesar's World gaming business.

Also sniffing around is Donald Trump, the flamboyant New York businessman, who

is reportedly considering building a casino and leisure complex on wasteland on the north Kent coast.

There are several reasons why America's leisure combines are focusing on Britain. First, the US gaming industry is at saturation point with the past decade's rapid expansion leaving little room for further domestic growth.

Secondly, the Americans regard Europe as ripe for more casinos. Britain, where casinos are booming, is the natural place to start.

Even the mid-to-low end of the market — which one might expect to have been most severely hit by Anthea Turner's Saturday night antics — is prospering, mainly because the sums normally wagered are higher than the small-ticket gambles against which the National Lottery competes.

At the top end, meanwhile, casinos such as those operated by London Clubs are in big demand, boosted by an influx last summer of high rollers, mainly from the Middle and Far East.

Thirdly, the most sweeping deregulation ever of British casinos is expected over the next few years.

The Government is preparing a Green Paper, due next month, which will pave the way for a huge expansion of the casino industry. Rules on membership, advertising and

alcohol sales will be relaxed, allowing casinos to offer bigger prizes and payment by plastic cards.

A change in membership rules is most likely, particularly to the so-called "48-hour rule", which requires gamblers to register as members of a casino at least 48 hours before entering.

The abolition of this rule is seen as crucial in attracting short-stay tourists to London's casinos.

But if the Government's proposals are as sweeping as is rumoured, analysts say London — now home to 21 of Britain's 119 casinos — could become the world's biggest gambling city after Las Vegas.

There are, however, a number of snags which would prevent an immediate wave of takeovers of British casinos. For a start, foreign companies cannot at present own casinos. Although the Green

Paper may propose to alter this, other changes are likely to take a higher priority than allowing foreigners to buy up British casinos.

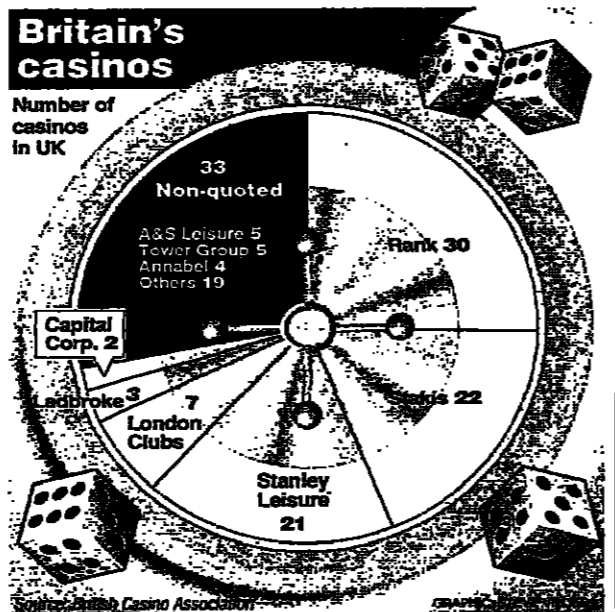
Secondly, any buyer would have to have an established gaming licence, since only an approved operator may run a casino.

This, in turn, could lead to monopolies problems. If, for instance, Ladbroke, which is keen to expand its casino activities, bought London Clubs, it would own almost half of the capital's casinos — making a monopolies reference odds on.

Finally, there is the vexed question of the City, which unlike its counterpart in New York — where casino stocks trade at a premium to the market — has traditionally regarded casinos as rather seamy.

London Clubs, which pulled its original flotation plans five years ago after a series of police raids, is a good example. Having won a respectable market following the company, on the basis of the Barrakuda deal, has a potential value far higher than the £33 million suggested by its share price. It could, indeed, be worth up to £500 million.

The fact that London Clubs does not enjoy a higher market rating now is testimony to the troubled image casinos still have in some quarters. It could also make it fairly easy for a predator to pick off



# Factory prices set scene for rate cut

Larry Elliott Economics Editor

THE City was gearing up last night for a further cut in the cost of borrowing, after official data showed weak demand prompting the biggest fall for 15 years in the underlying inflation rate of goods leaving factory gates.

Analysts said the latest data from the Central Statistical Office (CSO) gave the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, the perfect justification for a third cut in the cost of borrowing since September.

With the annual rate of producer price inflation dropping from 4.4 per cent to 0.8 per cent, Andrew Cates of UBS said the figures were "powerful weapons to a Chancellor who needs to lower base rates to aid his party's political fortunes".

The CSO's data reflects the strong competitive pressures on UK manufacturers, who have seen demand for their goods wane both at home and abroad in recent months.

As the Bank of England prepares to release its influential inflation report tomorrow, Mr Clarke is certain to draw comfort from the data on factory gate prices — one of the best indicators of retail prices in a few months' time. Dealers expect base rates to come down

to 6 per cent next month. January is the month in which firms tend to change their list prices, but the 0.4 per cent increase last month was well down on the 1.0 per cent recorded 12 months earlier, the CSO said.

The underlying rate of producer price inflation — which strips out food, beverages, tobacco and petroleum because they can be affected by budget tax changes — showed an even bigger fall from 4.4 per cent to 1.8 per cent.

Officials said the last time there had been a larger drop in the core rate of producer prices was in January 1981, when the economy was deep in recession.

The difficulty firms are having in raising their tariffs was also illustrated by the 0.4 per cent monthly increase in prices excluding food, beverages, petroleum and tobacco — the lowest rise for a January for 23 years.

Manufacturers are being helped to keep their prices in check by smaller bills for fuel and raw materials, which are being reduced by the impact of the slowdown in global demand.

Against a background of weakening commodity prices, industry's input prices fell by 0.3 per cent in January. The annual rate of increase in fuel and materials dropped from 5.9 per cent to 4.0 per cent,

less than half the 9 per cent annual growth rate of six months ago.

Simon Briscoe, economist at Nikko Bank, said it was encouraging that companies had not tried to force through higher prices in the wake of lower base rates and stories of stronger retail performance over the Christmas period.

The monthly survey from the British Retail Consortium released today showed that consumer spending remained on an upward trend into the New Year, building on the robust activity in the run-up to Christmas.

The cold snap boosted demand for "comfort food" such as soups and pies, but took its toll on clothing and footwear sales as the five-week trading period from December 31 to February 3 drew to a close.

Overall however, the like-for-like value of high street sales was still 4.1 per cent ahead of last year, according to the BRC's Retail Sales Monitor.

This was similar to the 4.3 per cent growth rate recorded in December and suggests that the pick-up in consumer spending detected at the end of last year is being sustained into the New Year, unlike 1995 when an encouraging Christmas was followed by a sharp fall-back in January, said the consortium.

# Jobs U-turn 'a Tory ploy'

Richard Thomas

LABOUR yesterday accused the Government of attempting to woo insecure workers back to the Conservative fold by tearing up its deregulatory agenda in the job market.

Employment minister Eric Forth, unveiling an upbeat document on UK prospects, said the right balance had been struck between employee protection and the freedom of firms to hire and fire. Further cuts in regulation were not required.

The Opposition seized on the statement as a policy U-turn after years of cutting

back job regulations. Ian McCartney, shadow employment spokesperson, said: "This is a government running scared of its own policies, reaping the reward from the deregulated market it has created, and from a plague of job insecurity."

But Mr Forth said that the removal of strict job conditions had been good for the efficiency of the market and for workers. Excessive regulation and minimum wages made companies reluctant to take staff on, by raising the cost of labour and making it more difficult to shed staff if conditions worsened.

As a result, the UK had a jobless rate of 8.6 per cent —

using an internationally comparable survey measure — which was well below the European Union average of 10.9 per cent, he said.

Speaking at a London press conference, Mr Forth admitted that job growth had been skewed towards women and part-time jobs, but denied this was a problem. Only a small minority — 14 per cent — of part-time workers wanted a full-time job.

The gap between different parts of the UK had also lessened, he said, with Scotland and the South-east showing similar rates of unemployment. "The North-South divide doesn't really exist anymore," the minister said.

# Trafalgar wins £500m steel job from Thais

Tony May

THE struggling Trafalgar House group looks to have won the biggest-ever deal between Britain and Thailand, to construct a £433 million-to-£500 million steelworks for Thai Special Steel (TSSI).

Anurak Kongtoranint, president of TSSI, said the wording of the contract, still being worked on with Trafalgar, would be signed at the end of the month.

The size of the deal sent the group's shares up 1p to 38p, but analysts were cautious about the effect on the industrial conglomerate, which shocked the City in December with losses of £321 million.

Trafalgar spokesman said: "Work on the iron and steel-making plant will start within a matter of weeks of the contract being signed and will take two to three years to complete. It will provide a considerable amount of work for Trafalgar's engineering division Davy International."

TSSI officials said the signing may be witnessed by the Prime Minister, John Major, who is in Bangkok for the Asia-European summit on March 1-2.

The steel complex, which will produce 2.75 million tonnes of hot liquid iron, 1.1 million tonnes of coke and 2.15 million tonnes of billets a year from early 1998, will obtain tax privileges from the state Board of Investment. It will be financed by Thai and foreign loans.

# News in brief

## Record double for Kvaerner

KVAERNER, the Norwegian shipbuilding, oil, pulp and paper group which failed in a £360 million bid for Amec construction at the end of last year, yesterday reported doubled pre-tax profits for 1995. They climbed to 2.44 billion crowns (£247 million) on sales of 30.2 billion crowns (£3 billion). Shipbuilding, oil and gas turned in good results, but Kvaerner said the progress of the British arm of the oil and gas business was "unsatisfactory and results in this market were negative". Performance in pulp and paper was "weak" while engineering business was "mixed". — Mark Miller

## Axe out at Renault

RENAULT, the French car giant, is planning to cut more than 2,750 jobs over the next 12 months, according to union sources. Though the state-owned company has refused to comment, an unnamed union representative, quoted on the Reuters financial news service, accused Renault of trying to intimidate the workforce ahead of this year's pay round, which opens today, by threatening jobs. Last year's pay talks were hit by industrial action, and yesterday the union representative said: "Management is trying to intimidate employees by brandishing its jobs plan in advance so that they will push less hard on the wages side." The jobs cut was said to be part of Renault's plans to boost productivity by 8 per cent this year. — Mark Miller

## Accountants spurn marriage

CHARTERED accountants have turned down plans to merge with the management accountants' professional body, CIMA, in another blow against integration of the fragmented profession. CIMA members, who predominantly work in industry and commerce, were overwhelmingly in favour of the merger plans, announced in December. But a survey of members of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales showed that almost two-thirds were opposed. Members aged over 50 were in the only group which produced a majority in favour. Members of the institute have turned down several integration attempts over the past 25 years among the six bodies representing auditors, tax specialists and accountants in industry, commerce, private practice and the public sector. — Roger Coote

## PIA praises banks' move

THE UK's largest banks will not use time-barring to avoid paying compensation to victims of mis-sold pensions. Abbey National, Barclays, Lloyds/TSB, Midland, NatWest and Royal Bank of Scotland, all members of the Bancassurance group of the British Bankers' Association, followed the lead of the Prudential which last week said it would not exploit the Limitation Act 1980. The act states that claimants can lose the right to take their case to court six years after the pension was sold or three years after discovering a grievance. The time limit, if exercised by pension providers, would hinder the progress of the Personal Investment Authority's pensions review. The PIA chairman, Joe Palmer, praised the banks' decision as "positive and constructive" and encouraged more firms to do the same. — Cliff Jones

## Lottery spending to thrive

ANNUAL spending on the National Lottery will reach up to £7 billion by the end of the century, a report claimed yesterday. The report, compiled from research conducted by academics at Sheffield University, predicts that by the end of the century, the average British family will be spending some £7,000 a year — around £25 a week — on leisure, including the Lottery. The researchers also forecast that "family entertainment centres", such as Scottish & Newcastle's expanding Center Parks, will become increasingly popular. — Ian King

# Bryant sales slump in poor house market

Tony May

BRYANT yesterday blamed the "pretty awful" state of the housing market for a slump in profits and sales, but raised tenuous hopes for an improvement this year.

The chairman, Sir Colin Hope, said six-month profits to November 30 had more than halved to £10.1 million with "a distinct lack of house purchaser confidence throughout the UK". The best the group could manage was static selling prices. The cost of sales had risen while the volume had fallen 12 per cent to 1,580.

Looking ahead he said: "The prospects for the housing market in 1996 are showing signs of gradual improvement as purchaser confidence responds to reduction in personal taxation and interest rates."

He hoped to see an improvement in operating margins and stuck to the medium-term target of producing 4,000 homes a year for the middle-to-upper sectors of the market.

The group has now joined other UK home-builders which had produced worse-than-expected results for the second half of 1995 but predicted a recovery this year. Michael Foster, an analyst

at Greig Middleton, said he would cut his end-of-year forecast from £24 million to "not less than" £20 million. He said Bryant had been unable to pass on the high prices it had paid for good quality land to the final customer and there had been problems with design and marketing.

Analysts at NatWest said the group had now reduced its staff by 10 per cent. But its problems had been compounded by its aggressive expansion in the past two years. It had pushed up its overhead costs in advance of the market and had, arguably, overpaid for land in 1994 and 1995.

Advertisement for the British Heart Foundation. It features a black and white photograph of a heart and text that reads: "HALF OF ALL DEATHS ARE FROM HEART AND CIRCULATORY DISEASE. HELP FIGHT BRITAIN'S No 1 KILLER. CALL 0990 200 656. British Heart Foundation THE HEART RESEARCH CHARITY".

Handwritten signature or scribble at the bottom of the page.



Rugby Union

Twickers wants Euro soccer

Robert Armstrong

TWICKENHAM plans to market itself as a venue for European soccer and rugby internationals within the next two or three seasons. Tony Hallett, the Rugby Football Union secretary, wants the ground to become more cost-effective by staging high-profile fixtures in other professional sports to supplement major rugby union matches. "I am keen to see the excellent, up-to-date facilities we now have at Twickenham put to use for European soccer knockout competitions," Hallett said yesterday. "I also believe we could become the main venue in the south for rugby league occasions. Twickenham's 75,000 all-seated capacity will give the stadium a substantial advantage over soccer grounds such as Highbury and Stamford Bridge in generating gate revenue. Even though Twickenham falls short of Wembley's 78,000 capacity, its state-of-the-art dressing room, catering and media facilities are bound to enhance its appeal. It would be feasible to hold the finals of the European Cup and Cup Winners' Cup at Twickenham from time to time instead of Wembley. The installation of floodlights paved the way for the potential introduction of evening soccer, though the RFU has no plans to schedule the kick-off time of rugby union matches later than 3pm. Hallett has no qualms about

New fly needs luck of the Irish

Karl Johnson on David Humphreys, latest hope for the long-service award

SINCE Jackie Kyle started the trend almost 50 years ago, Ireland fly-half has tended to be in the running for long-service awards. Mike Gibson and Barry McGann had sizeable tenures in the No. 10 shirt, followed more recently by Tony Ward, Ollie Campbell and Paul Dineen. But since Dean's career ended prematurely with injury in the 1989, the procession afterwards seems as long as the titanic of the David Humphreys, of London Irish, will on Saturday become Dean's ninth successor when he runs out at the Parc des Princes. Dean was followed by Brian Smith, whose return to Australia opened the door for Ralph Keyes, the top scorer in the 1991 World Cup. He was disgracefully dropped for Derek McAleese, whose only international appearance was conspicuously perhaps, for Humphreys, his Ballymena and Ulster compatriot - against France in Paris in 1992. McAleese made way for Peter Russell, before Niall Malone succeeded him as captain of Ireland and France in 1993. Enter Eric Elwood to star in the defeats of Wales and England and another of the long-service brigade seemed to have arrived. But injury at the start of last season left Alan McGowan for his only cap to date, before Paul Burke was picked against Scotland. Since then his rivalry with Elwood has been reminiscent of the Ward-Campbell saga of the Eighties. Not even Humphreys can be expected to leap into the big time at the start of the season, when he did not make the preliminary list of Ireland players. His sudden rise has come on the back of three good performances - for Oxford in the Varsity Match. In



In with a shout... Humphreys celebrates his try for Oxford in December's Varsity Match defeat

Athletics

Sprint record smashed

Stephen Bierley

FRANKIE FEDERICKS got his Olympic year off to the swiftest of starts last night by setting a new 100 metres indoor world record of 10.05 in Tampere, Finland. The Barcelona silver medalist finished well inside the previous mark set last year by Nigerian Olapade Adeniken and established himself as the early favourite for Atlanta. British supporters of Colin Jackson will have to get used to home thoughts and information from abroad this year, with the Welsh sprinter still in dispute with the British Athletic Federation. Jackson has vowed to run in only two domestic meetings, the Welsh Games and the Olympic trials, after a row last year with Peter Radford, the executive chairman of BAF. Radford gave Jackson what he interpreted as a dressing down after the world championship trials when Jackson, running over the 100m, pulled out with an injury on the Saturday and then competed in Italy the next day. Jackson's injury-plagued season led to him missing the world championships in Gothenburg but on Sunday night the world 110m hurdles record-holder answered questions about his fitness by winning over 60m at the Gunna international indoor meeting in Maebashi, Japan in 7.51, ahead of Mark Crear of the United States in 7.58. His absence from the British scene has given Tony Jarrett, who last Saturday defeated the world champion Allen Johnson at the Ricoh international in Birmingham, a chance to push himself forward as Britain's sprinter. But Jarrett has refused to get pulled into any comparison with Jackson. The world championship silver medal winner said at the weekend that he was not interested in getting involved in any debate. "All I want to do this season is to go out and do my own thing." At the same meeting in Japan Donovan Bailey of Canada, the world 100m gold medal winner, saw off the challenge of Leroy Burrell from the US in the 60m sprint in a modest 6.58.

England kicked aside by Alred

DAVE ALRED, widely regarded as the world's leading specialist kicking coach, will not be working with the England squad in the build-up to next month's Calcutta Cup match against Scotland at Murrayfield, writes Chris Hewitt. Alred will be in Australia coaching New South Wales during their final preparations for the southern hemisphere Super-12 tournament. He will also help Manly during three weeks in Australia. Following the England fly-half Paul Grayson's dismal kicking performance against Wales, Alred has still not been contracted as a fully fledged member of the national coaching set-up. Alred will not be the first time he has taken his expertise Down Under. The Wallabies used him frequently in their build-up to the last World Cup and tried unsuccessfully to secure his services on an exclusive basis during the tournament.

he was ousted from the A team by McGowan

"I didn't play as well last season as I can but I can't explain why," says Humphreys, 24 last September. "Moving to Oxford helped. I've been playing well recently and intend to be positive in Paris." He will be Ireland's goalkeeper there, which may have the supporters weeping into their pints in Kitty O'Shea's Bar in Paris come Saturday evening. Humphreys' kicking can be very, very good or simply horrid. But Humphreys is in the team for more than his goal-kicking, though apart from Freddie McLennan's solitary try in 1980 that is the only way Ireland have scored at the Parc des Princes since their initial 1974 visit. "David is an exciting player who we believe will play the game how we want it played," says Ireland's manager Pat Whelan. The selectors have been adventurous and have come up with a new half-back pairing, Niall Hogan taking over at scrum-half from Christian Saverimutto. Injury and work kept Hogan, who won the last of his five caps against France in the World Cup quarter-final last June, out of the running at the start of the season, and his inexperience should take some of the heat off Humphreys. But he will need a cool head and all the luck going. The Parc des Princes has not been kind to international rookies from Ireland.

back pairing, Niall Hogan

back pairing, Niall Hogan taking over at scrum-half from Christian Saverimutto. Injury and work kept Hogan, who won the last of his five caps against France in the World Cup quarter-final last June, out of the running at the start of the season, and his inexperience should take some of the heat off Humphreys. But he will need a cool head and all the luck going. The Parc des Princes has not been kind to international rookies from Ireland.

Racing

Eider pulls in Aintree hopes

THE Tote Eider Handicap Chase, due to be run over four miles and one furlong at Newcastle on Saturday, has all the makings of a valuable Martell Grand National trial with 14 of the 21 entries made yesterday holding the Aintree engagement. In addition to the £25,000 added prize money, there is the £100,000 bonus put up by Newcastle's chairman Stan Clarke to the connections of any horse which wins the Eider and the Midlands National at Uttoxeter on March 15 before finishing in the first four at Aintree. "Clarke hopes to be represented in Saturday's race by Lord Relic, who has been nursed back to fitness after sustaining a serious injury at Newbury 14 months ago," says Captain Dibble, who also makes his comeback in the Eider, having been brought out of retirement following a couple of poor efforts last season. "He's had arthritis in his joints, but seems to be back to the moment and happy to be in the National," said Peter Scudamore, assistant to Captain Dibble's trainer, Nigel Twiston-Davies. "All being well he is a likely runner on Saturday and the plan is to give him not more than two races before Aintree."

Kelso runners and riders with form guide

Table with racing results and form guides for Kelso. It includes race numbers, names of horses, jockeys, and trainers, along with their performance in previous races.

Results

Table with racing results for various tracks including Hereford, Southwell, and Kelso. It lists race numbers, horse names, jockeys, and their finishing positions.

Lingfield (A.W. Flat)

Table with racing results for Lingfield (A.W. Flat). It lists race numbers, horse names, jockeys, and their finishing positions.

Swinburn 'out of danger'

WALTER SWINBURN has regained consciousness after his horrific fall in Hong Kong on Sunday, but remains sedated in intensive care. The three-times Derby winner's condition was described as "poor" but his life is not in danger. Swinburn's mount, the newowner Luffey River, woned sharply right across the Sha Tin course shortly after the start. The jockey crashed through the aluminium running rail and then smashed into a steel post, which sent him flying into the air. Another British-based jockey Brian Taylor was killed in a fall at the same course in 1984, while in the same year Frenchman Philippe Paquet sustained injuries which ended his career. But Philip Johnson, the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club's director of racing, defended the course, saying: "We have had our fair share of falls, but this was nothing to do with the track. The horse just took off and swerved right, straight through the running rail."

Advertisement for Kelso Race Line, featuring a grid of numbers and names of horses and jockeys.

Visored today for the first time: KELSO: 3.10 Ord Gallery, LINGFIELD: 4.50 Elburg.







Cricket

Let the international lottery roll

Mike Selvey

IT BEGAN when a washed-out Ashes Test in Melbourne a quarter of a century ago was replaced by a limited-overs match. Four years later the first World Cup was staged in England...

and exhausting three-week process to whittle the dozen down to eight quarter-finals, at which point things begin in earnest. Favourites do not seem to win. It is, as the Australian captain Mark Taylor has said, not about who has the best side on paper but who has the force with them during a tournament.

ably, though, the records show that although they have never won the tournament, they have reached three of the last four finals, so they must do something right. To do so again, however, will require inspiration rather than mere efficiency: from the batting, which can be extremely comfortable until it collapses; from the bowlers such as Dominic Cork and Darren Gough; and from Mike Atherton, whose captaincy is often too stodgy for a game where strategy can be out of the window.

and they more than most have been reluctant to accept the Asian way of touring life. Australia are uncompromisingly tough, well led, have depth and brilliance to their batting, class bowlers, all-rounders - Steve Waugh rather than Brian McMillan has to be the best all-rounder in the game - and field like there is no tomorrow.

support the best seam attack and fielders in the business. If Cronje, Kalis or Cullinan, say, has a good tournament they will be hard to beat. Sri Lanka, vastly improved, are not to be discounted and have been handed a gift of four points that might help secure them a less arduous quarter-final. It is from India and Pakistan, however, that the winner might emerge.



Wasim... adds stability



Waugh... all-round talent

Motor Racing

Villeneuve warms to challenge

Alan Henry in Estoril on the Williams drivers seeking to emulate their fathers

JACQUES VILLENEUVE left to kick his heels in the pit lane here in Portugal yesterday while Damon Hill completed the first exploratory shakedown at the wheel of the new Williams Renault FW18, the car the Englishman hopes will enable him to emulate his late father Graham and finally win a world championship.

Tennis

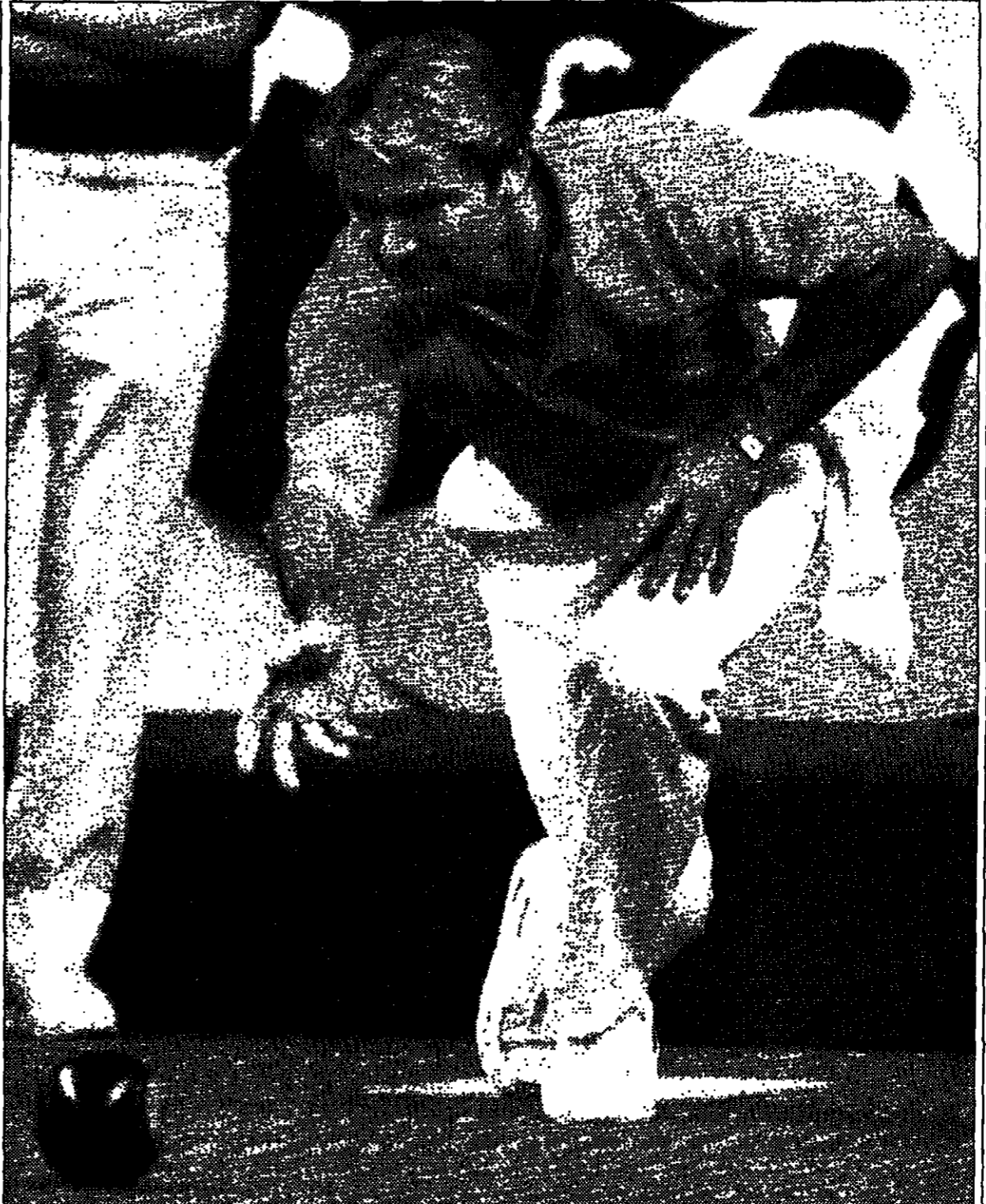
Capriati shapes up well for return

David Irvine in Paris

JENNIFER CAPRIATI is in far better physical shape than she was when she made her first brief comeback in Philadelphia 15 months ago. So says the German player Anke Huber who defeated Capriati in the only match she played in November 1994.

world, Capriati could tonight find someone capable of testing her game, temperament and resolve to the full. Should Capriati survive, she could play Huber in the quarter-finals. Huber would not be drawn into predicting Capriati's likely progress. Nor would Capriati's father Stefano. "She's been working hard for four months now and feels good in herself," he said. "But it really doesn't matter if she makes an impact or not. She's here to play well of course but the result is not important. She's not really expecting anything."

could ever be. Jim Fuhse, the WTA's director of public relations and a close friend of the player, said it was at last year's US Open that he had detected a real desire in Capriati to return to the women's tour. "Every time I've talked to her since she has been more and more upbeat and eager to get back," he said. "I was in Philadelphia and she wasn't right then. Her whole attitude and demeanour are different now. She's a much happier person. I think when she joined the tour in 1990 she had the potential to be the greatest player ever on the women's side. It's good that she's back."



Carpet capers... Australia's Ian Schuback bowling along at the World Indoor Championships

Boxing

Morrison HIV scare for Lewis

Don Beut

LENNOX LEWIS, the former World Boxing Council heavyweight champion, has been advised to take an Aids test amid fears that Tommy Morrison, whom he beat last October, has tested HIV positive. Morrison, a former World Boxing Council champion, was "medically suspended" hours before he was due to fight in Las Vegas on Saturday.

Wembley Arena and hopes to be challenging for his former title in the autumn. Morrison, meanwhile, has returned to his native Oklahoma and his trainer Tom Virgates refused to confirm that the fighter had tested positive. "Everything is speculation," he added. Marc Ratner, executive director of the Nevada Athletic Commission, said he could provide no specifics on the suspension because of legal constraints. "I have been instructed very carefully by the attorney-general's office not to say anything more," he said. Only one boxer has tested positive for the Aids virus in Nevada since the state first started testing in the late Eighties. In 1991 a number of the eight underground fighter did so and was suspended indefinitely. Morrison's fight against Weathers - the first of a planned series under his new promoter Don King - would have been his first in Nevada since he beat George Foreman in 1993. Virgates said Morrison was scheduled to fight two weeks later in Virginia and would then meet a top-10 contender on the undercard of the Mike Tyson-Bernard Hopkins WBC title fight in Las Vegas on March 16. Virgates told Morrison in the casino of the MGM Grand on Saturday that he had been suspended. "It's a shocking thing to hear that you've been medically disqualified," he said.

Chess

Kasparov's right moves

TWO down, four to go and honours even. Deep Blue's victory in the first game in Philadelphia was due to that all-too-human characteristic of arrogance by Garry Kasparov. In the second, the world champion, confident for attention and eventually wore down the number-cruncher. 9p5.5 White: Kasparov Black: Deep Blue First game

Chess board diagram showing moves for Kasparov and Deep Blue.

New Zealand pair put an early squeeze on eighth seeds

ROWAN BRASSY and Sid Giddy of New Zealand sprang a surprise in the first match of the World Indoor Championships at Preston yesterday when they defeated the eighth seeds Ian McClure and Noel Graham of Ireland in straight sets.

Ice Hockey

Panthers out of title hunt after back-to-back defeats

THE two defeats sustained by Nottingham Panthers at the weekend effectively reduced the Premier Division title chase to a two-horse race. While the third-placed side lost, those above them, Sheffield Steelers and Cardiff Devils, took full points from their games. Now the Steelers have 48 points and the Devils one fewer with both sides having seven matches left to play, one more than Nottingham, who are eight points adrift. However, the Panthers chairman John Flavill says they have their sights set on membership of the proposed new all-professional Ice Hockey Super League next season and he is confident their application will be successful. "We are confident we have the required financial backing in place. And our rink facilities do meet the criteria that have been asked for," said Flavill. "Those facilities will be even better than the present 3,000 capacity, 57-year-old Nottingham Ice Stadium can offer if plans to be announced today for a new multi-million pound three-rink complex including an 8,000 seat arena come to fruition on schedule in the year 2000. On Saturday, despite a Paul Adey hat-trick, Panthers were beaten 7-5 by Newcastle Warriors. The result was decided by the Warriors' Scott Morrison who fired his side's seventh goal into an empty net 20 seconds from time. Panthers having replaced their netminder with an extra skater as they desperately sought an equaliser. There was no such climax to their game at Cardiff on Sunday where Nottingham suffered their heaviest defeat of the season in losing 6-2 to the Devils, who had won 6-4 at Milton Keynes the night before after leading 5-1 at the end of the first period. Sheffield stayed top following Saturday's 5-1 win at Basingstoke with a 5-3 victory over the Warriors at Newcastle on Sunday.

Rugby League

Leeds seek injunction on Innes

There have been unconfirmed reports that Innes's contract with Australia is worth a total of £50,000. The player has been trying to negotiate a release from his Leeds contract for several weeks. Last week the club announced that although they were resigned to losing Innes he had agreed to stay for the remainder of their Challenge Cup campaign. But after Leeds's 30-10 fifth-round win at Warrington on Saturday, in which Innes scored a try, the New Zealander said he regarded the agreement as being for that one tie only. Innes's departure is the latest in a series of blows suffered by Leeds. Their hooker James Lowes surprisingly moved to Bradford Bulls when his contract run out two weeks ago, their assistant coach Ellery Hanley has joined Sydney Tigers and last week financial pressures saw them put the New Zealand Test forward Gary Mercer up for sale at £45,000. The Rugby League will be anxious to defend its position because Manly are registered with the Australian Rugby League while the British name is aligned with Rupert Murdoch's rival Super League organisation and the two bodies have been locked in court action in Australia. "If Innes were to succeed in playing for Manly without penalty for leaving Leeds that would be serious for the British game because a number of players are due to join the ARL at the end of their contracts and they could be tempted to leave earlier. The Centenary season First Division champions Salford have re-opened talks with rugby union's Sale, who want to play at the Willows in the winter after selling their Heywood Road ground for redevelopment and before moving to a new home in Trafford. Salford, who ended Wigan's 43-match winning run in the Challenge Cup, have been drawn at home to the new favourites St Helens in the quarter-finals. Salford City Council Cup Quarter-final draw: Halifax vs Sheffield v Leeds; Salford vs St Helens; Bradford v Wakefield; Hull v Doncaster or Widnes. Time to be played on 24/25 February

Morris urges ITV to think again

JOHN MORRIS, Secretary of the British Boxing Board of Control, yesterday urged ITV to reconsider its decision to pull out of big-fight coverage. The switch-off will be a financial blow to the promoters and will make it harder to push new talent. "I'm asking ITV to consider their position seriously," said Morris. "If they would like a meeting with myself and the board I would welcome the opportunity of sitting down with them. We want to retain their interest and the BBC's as well. They are taking away millions of viewers something they want to see."

think that... of the... ways... reward... ways to... people speak... sorry... excuse if... do... other... IRA nor... anybody... will... able to... more them

Open... versity... for... BSc... ee.

University of... and... Morris



Twickenham opens arms to soccer, page 13  
Another Hill for Damon to climb, page 15

Court victory for Venables, page 14  
World Cup begins march on Lahore, page 15

# SportsGuardian

## England in place and set to think positive

Edward Harris in Ahmedabad

WHILE Colombo's luxurious Taj Samudra Hotel kept 14 rooms vacant in case Australia and West Indies have a last-minute change of mind and decide to play in Sri Lanka, England travelled the 16 hours from Calcutta via Delhi in preparation for tomorrow's opening game against New Zealand.

Under the strict 'no moans' policy which Miles Atherton's side have adopted there were few complaints about the 4.30am start or the extended journey, but it hardly constituted ideal match preparation. Neither side has been able to stage a full-scale practice session since last Thursday.

If England win tomorrow and then dispose of the United Arab Emirates on Sunday and Holland the following Thursday they will book a quarter-final place before meeting the group B joint favourites South Africa and Pakistan.

On the face of it, a New Zealand side no longer boasting the likes of batsmen Martin Crowe, Ken Rutherford and Mark Greatbatch — a trio of proven match-winners now either injured or out of favour — should not be too much of a problem. The Kiwis are further handicapped by Chris Cairns' calf strain which is likely to restrict his bowling to five overs.

However, a side containing such unfamiliar names as Nathan Astle, who has spent the past two summers appearing for Parsley in the Bradford League, Craig Spearman, Lee Gernon and Robert Kennedy could develop quickly into a dangerous unit.

They have just beaten Zimbabwe in a home one-day international series and possess recent experience of Indian conditions through touring here before Christmas. "I think New Zealand will be a decent side, especially on these pitches where their medium-pacers and spinners might be difficult to get away," said England's manager Ray Illingworth. "But it is up to us to get our game right and I wouldn't grumble about the way the group fixtures have worked out."

England will leave team decisions until they have seen the Ahmedabad pitch and carried out a final check on their injuries. Robin Smith is definitely out with a pulled groin muscle but could be fit to face the UAE.

Neil Fairbrother, who may need to wear a protective pad on the palm of his right hand after sustaining a nasty cut during fielding practice in Calcutta, and Dominic Cork (scars knee) are both expected to be fit tomorrow.

England's main areas of uncertainty concern the choice of Atherton's opening partner and whether to play both their front-line spinners. Phillip DeFreitas could be used as a top of the order hitter to take advantage of the first 15 overs when only two fielders are allowed inside the 30-yard circle.

Whether both Richard Illingworth and Neil Smith make the final XI depends on how England view the pitch. Even if both spinners play, however, neither is likely to open the bowling. That play has been used successfully by New Zealand and Dipak Patel may once again be used in that role. The English-born former Warwickshire batsman Roger Twose is also likely to play.

Mike Selvey PT 5

## KASPAROV FIGHTS BACK AGAINST THE COMPUTER



Deep thought... Kasparov gets his grey cells working against Deep Blue's silicon during their second game

PHOTOGRAPH BY ALAN NADEL

# Man draws level with Monster

Mark Tran in New York

THE world chess champion Gary Kasparov struck a blow for the human race when he bounced back from a crushing opening-round defeat to outsmart the Deep Blue IBM computer in the second game, a 73-move marathon.

In avenging his loss, Kasparov may have discovered a winning strategy for this latest confrontation between human and machine over the chess board.

A relieved Kasparov explained that by playing quietly, he could lure the computer into opening its defence and exposing itself to counterattack.

"If you threaten the machine will counterattack," Kasparov said. "But if there is no threat, the machine will go about its business and eventually give you an opportunity."

In the second game of the six-round match, Kasparov curbed his usual aggressive style, adopting an incremental approach that eventually short-circuited Deep Blue. But it still took a tense 6hr 45min before Kasparov could claim victory to the cheers of "Bravo! Bravo!" from some 200 spectators in the Pennsylvania Convention Centre in Philadelphia.

After his 73rd move, Kasparov was well on his way to converting one of three passed pawns into a queen; Deep Blue had little option but to resign.

"Kasparov managed to develop a plan that extended beyond the computer's horizon," said the chess aficionado David Levy. "Arguably, the computer didn't know what was going on."

Deep Blue, however, has already made history with its unexpected trouncing of Kasparov at the weekend. It was the first time that a machine had beaten a world champion under classic tournament

rules in which each player has two hours for the first 40 moves.

An overconfident Kasparov lost the opening game in 37 moves, when he paid the price for his aggression. The attacking strategy that failed him on Saturday, Kasparov said, would have succeeded against any human player.

"What I discovered was that we are now seeing for the first time what happens when quantity becomes quality. The depths of this computer's calculation gives it positional strength," Kasparov said.

In 1989, Kasparov had little trouble in disposing of Deep Thought, IBM's prototype for Deep Blue.

The present match is attracting as much attention as last year's world championship, when Kasparov easily retained his crown against the Indian player Vishwanand Anand.

After Deep Blue's loss, Joel Benjamin, an American grandmaster advising the IBM team, said tetchily: "Well, we never thought we'd go undefeated." The third game begins today.

## How Kasparov ground out victory after rash beginning

Leonard Barden

GARRY Kasparov needs to play the most controlled and precise chess of his life for the rest of this week if he is to beat Deep Blue by a wide enough margin to uphold his self-styled role as the last defender of humanity against silicon.

The Russian has already lost several times to computers at speed chess, and if Deep Blue beats him again in tonight's third of six games, all Kasparov's massive successes against other grandmasters will not save him from a blemished reputation.

"You have a sleepless night after playing against a computer in a game like this," said the world champion. "The number of

moves this monstrous machine can calculate prevents it from making a positional mistake within reach of its calculation. It's the first time that we're playing not just with a simple computer but with something that has its own intelligence."

In the first game, Kasparov did everything wrong, from a self-bishop move early on to failing to double rooks at move 21 or to offer a queen trade at move 27. The result was an open, fluid position tailor-made for Deep Blue's 200 million moves per second calculations, and at the end Kasparov had the ignominy of resigning a position where he himself threatened instant checkmate.

By game two he had already changed to a computer-hostile strategy: a careful, closed opening, nicking small advantages, and grinding the machine down in a possibly drawn endgame by interminable long-range manoeuvres designed to extend beyond the computer's horizon.

At the start Kasparov clearly underestimated his opponent, as did grandmasters and chess experts worldwide who predicted a mismatch and a 6-0 wipeout.

Although Deep Blue's prototype, Deep Thought, best grandmasters such as Britain's Tony Miles, Kasparov crushed it in 1989. IBM then poured in millions of dollars into this single machine, an ostentatiously different approach from its rivals Intel which developed speed chess machines and also sponsored chess worldwide.

However, Deep Blue failed badly in a German tournament in 1993 and it seemed that IBM had bought itself a very expensive white elephant.

No wonder that when Kasparov resigned the first game and stormed off the stage, the Deep Blue programmers all celebrated as if they had just been given a reprieve after being Death Row.

Chess moves, page 16

## Little girl lost tries again as America's comeback kid



Richard Williams

POOR Jennifer. She just wanted to be like all the other kids. As an adolescent in the affluent suburbs of Florida that meant needing to paint her fingernails black, listen to loud guitar music, consider the possibilities of navel-piercing, and get a little hairlessly waxed.

Millions of kids follow such an agenda every day, and wise parents understand that. Notwithstanding the perils of late 20th Century western civilisation, most adolescents stand a good chance of coming out the other side in reasonable shape to face adulthood and evolve into fully contributing members of society. They just need to be left alone for a year or two, preferably in a sound-proofed room.

Jennifer Capriati did not get the chance. These years, a variation on the adolescence most of us shared, do not constitute a satisfactory application for membership of the Women's Tennis Association tour, an organisation that sometimes seems to have been beamed down from a distant planet.

How could a girl who attracted more than a million dollars' worth of product endorsements at the age of 13 ever hope to live an ordinary life? But when Jennifer refused to live the extraordinary one that others had planned for her, the failure to conform left her alone. Which, given the options available, was probably exactly how she wanted it.

WHAT must her life have been like as she was fed to the machine piece by piece? Pushed from infancy by a wickedly ambitious father, taken up in childhood by Mark McCormack's International Management Group, her face on magazine covers before she had done anything to justify it. And then it got nasty.

Try to think of a way to torture a teenage girl, and then remember the time a reporter asked Capriati — asked her right out, in front of a roomful of people — whether she had lost a match because she had put on too much weight. By the time she was 16, even winning a match left her in a state

of existential despair, confused and incoherent.

The subsequent tale of well-publicised disasters — an accidental on a petty shoplifting charge and a motel-room bust that found her in possession of some funny cigarettes — reaches a new chapter in Paris today when Capriati, now aged 19, attempts her second comeback. The latest in a whole series of recent sporting returns, it is by far the most poignant.

Maybe Chris Evert can do for Capriati what Martina Navratilova did for Monica Seles last year: chaperone her along the path to normality, if that is how one can describe the world of top women tennis players.

No one is better qualified than Evert, who knows everything there is to know about life on the tour, to help the girl who once seemed destined to succeed her as the teen queen of American tennis, but who turned out to be tragically ill-suited to the job. And at the WTA awards dinner during last year's US Open, Evert had Capriati as a guest on her table — the former prodigy's first real public appearance since an abortive comeback the previous winter, when she briefly re-emerged after drugs rehabilitation and psychiatric treatment.

WHATEVER happens to her this time, Capriati has made at least one significant contribution to her sport. Her fall was so public, and so harmful to the image of the women's tour, that the age-limit rule was changed. Ironically, this was the very rule that had been bent — at the behest of everybody with a financial stake in the property — to allow her to take part in a senior tournament one week before her 14th birthday.

At least the new generation of tennis tots — Martina Hingis, Venus Williams, Anna Kournikova — and those who follow them will be protected from such million-dollar exposure until they are old enough to drive a car as well.

It is surely no coincidence that Capriati's only big win was at the Olympic Games in 1992, where she beat Steffi Graf for the gold medal. In the athletes' village in Barcelona, removed from the stalling atmosphere of the women's tour, she found light and freedom, and a way to be herself, if only temporarily.

If Evert is continuing to take an interest, perhaps she can find the words to tell Capriati that she need not surrender all of herself to the demands of the tennis circuit, that she can retain a measure of the real Jennifer, whoever that may be.

## Guardian Crossword No 20,574

Set by Orlando

- Across**
- 1 Greece without, Paris is lacking time within (8)
  - 5 A monkey rushes about (5)
  - 9 Plenty of corporal punishment (8)
  - 10 Cake found in city den (5)
  - 11 Whatever is inside is satisfactory (8)
  - 12 A lot of money in a carton (5)
  - 14 Tremendous object seen outside Neath? (10)
  - 18 Queen holding imperial leader in Egypt (10)
  - 22 After midnight many see phantoms (5)
  - 23 Witches and social worker coming to a mutual agreement (8)
  - 24 Join together again in fact (5)

- Down**
- 1 Comfort a cold fish outside (5)
  - 2 Acquiescence when entrusted with a mission? (6)
  - 3 Worked hard to set up food shop (5)
  - 4 A poisonous plant almost leads to terrible deaths (10)
  - 6 Measures the acres in a new way (5)
  - 7 Island resort — straight part with nothing round (8)
  - 8 Generalship: destruction of targets to military end (8)

- 13** In a top position, church dig-nitary from Australasia? (10)
- 16** Sick with greed, terribly worried (8)
- 17** Drink — one featured in French newspaper (5)
- 18** Is ballet set in prison? (8)


- 19** Old English — not any lover of Paris (6)
- 20** Like Hamlet and his play (6)
- 21** Old coin for one setting forth (5)
- Solution tomorrow**
- Published by Guardian Newspapers Limited at 18 Farringdon Road, London EC2A 4EJ, and at 184 Deodar Road, Chelsea SW3 2PJ. Printed at the Guardian Press Centre, 2 Millharbour, London E14 6AF. Trademark: Printers, Longbridge Road, Manchester M17 1SE. The Overseas Office, Admissions: Rosendahl-Strasse 1, 6078 Neu-Isenburg/Zippelshausen, Germany; Nord-Edlar, 1921 rue des Cimes, 9509 - 50050 Puteaux, Cedex 1, France, for and on behalf of the Guardian and Manchester Evening News, P.C. 4274. Tuesday February 13, 1996 Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office ISSN 0251-3077. London: Telephone 0171-275 2252. Telex 8511746 (Guard) G; Fax 0171-271 2114. 0171-853 8342. Telephone advice 0171-611 8000. Manchester: Tel 0161-275 7200. Fax 0161-232 3051/34 9717. Tel sales 0161-254 9596.

Don't forget there's still time to send flowers.



SHOW YOU CARE. ORDER FLOWERS FROM YOUR LOCAL INTERFLORA FLORIST OR  
 FRECALL INTERFLORA 24 HRS ON 0500 43 43 43.

Delivered by hand. Straight to the heart.



Interflora

Handwritten signature or text at the bottom center of the page.